



Mr Michael Harris  
Chair, Fire Service Act Review  
GPO Box 1526  
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Michael

**FIRE SERVICE ACT REVIEW**

Please find attached the formal submission from the State Fire Management Council to the Fire Service Act Review.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet and consult with the Council. If you have any questions regarding this response please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian Sauer', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Ian Sauer  
**CHAIR, STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

3 September 2018

cc SFMC Members

# State Fire Management Council response to Fire Service Act Review Issues Paper

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**1. Should the purpose of the legislation more accurately reflect the range of activities undertaken?**

*Yes, legislation should more accurately reflect the range of activities.*

*As an example:*

- *Fire – vegetation, structure*
- *Flood, storm*
- *Road crash rescue, urban search and rescue, technical rescue, Hazmat*
- *Regulation*

*Legislation should also encompass the full range of activities within PPRR model.*

*Old legislation more focused on response to fire (direct attack); need to consider:*

- *Vegetation fire management (bushfire risk, mitigation activities)*
- *Community education*
- *Policy*
- *Stakeholder engagement and consultation*
- *Cover off on both private and public sector*
- *Shared responsibility of risk- bushfire risk, own the land, manage the land*
- *Which will then lead to a more consolidated and shared responsibility for risk, Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy.*

*Activities such as building capacity of community through education, extension and decision support tools should be reflected – these activities make for a more engaged and safer Tasmania.*

**2. How should legislation validate the delivery of the current range of non-fire services that communities and government expect TFS to deliver?**

- *Details of service, accountabilities and linkages to broader emergency management act*
- *Legislation to reflect and recognise all emergency services and the services delivered -*

**3. Do TFS firefighters have a role in Emergency Medical Response and, if so, should that role be reflected in legislation?**

- *Operational matter – no comment.*

**4. Should the State Emergency Service be included in the new legislation and removed from the Emergency Management Act?**

- *Consider Emergency Services Act for operational/response arrangements and another for broader emergency management legislation.*
- *Would help promote better collaboration between SES and TFS.*
- *Would provide clearer responsibilities and better governance arrangements within whole of emergency management sector.*

5. **Should a statement of commitment to volunteers be included in the new legislation and, if so, who and what should it cover?**
  - *Recognition must be considered as TFS/SES is predominately volunteer organisation.*
  - *Commitment could include: maintaining capability, resourcing, training and development, recognition, transferable skills communication, consultation, communication and recognition of employers*
6. **Should the legislation provide PWS and forest officers with appropriate legislative authority to undertake fire control work and reflect contemporary Tasmanian practice in relation to Inter-Agency Incident Management?**
  - *Yes*
  - *Allow for appropriate powers of Incident Controllers (regardless of agency/organisation)*
  - *Consider other land management agencies (not just STT and PWS) – ensure definition of forest officer is clear.*
  - *Promote greater collaboration in responding to bushfire, greater capability of qualified personnel.*
  - *Promote culture of shared responsibility.*
7. **Should the State Fire Commission remain as a Statutory Authority?**
8. **Should the State Fire Commission have the role of a governing Board?**
9. **Should members of the Commission be appointed as representatives of their organisation or on the basis of skills/knowledge that they possess?**
10. **What should be the State Fire Commission's role and function and should it include the strategic policy setting and administrative oversight of the State Emergency Service?**
  - *SFC should be replaced by contemporary governance arrangements.*
  - *An independent body (statutory authority) to govern independently.*
  - *Body would be responsible for managing strategy, policy and finance for a sustainable future for a collective fire and emergency services.*
  - *Membership would be skills based.*
11. **What structural arrangements would best allow the Commission and TFS to achieve their objectives while operating in a departmental environment?**
  - *Consider independent governance e.g. Fire and Emergency Management Tasmania (FEMT) with operational arms reporting to management structure.*
12. **How should the Chief Officer be appointed and to whom is he responsible?**
  - *Under contemporary governance arrangements – Board (governance) to be ultimately responsible for appointment.*
  - *Consider Government business enterprise model where board oversees strategic direction and appoints and monitor performance of CO and monitor finances.*
  - *Board take direction from any shareholder/s (Minister's responsible).*
  - *Board Chair reports to Minister (as shareholder)*

**13. Should it still be specified that the Chief Officer is to have expertise and experience in fire service administration and in the management of fire-fighting operations?**

- *If CO was to report to management team within FEMT CO should still have a fire services administration/operations background.*
- *Fire background would assist in maintaining TFS reputation and confidence within the community.*

**14. How should potential tensions between the roles and accountabilities of the Chief Officer TFS, the Director SES and the State Controller be best resolved?**

- *Fully integrated reporting lines and clarity between Emergency Management Act/Fire Service Act and TFS/SES operational structure (FEMT).*

**15. What is the appropriate role and function of the SFMC and what should the relationship be with the State Fire Commission/TFS?**

- *SFMC recently reviewed their role and strategic direction framework. Copy of the workshop report is attached for information – this report gives clarification on the role and function of SFMC.*
- *SFMC mission is to enhance the efficient management of bushfire related risk in Tasmania in order to protect life, property and significant community values.*
- *Over the last 12 months SFMC members have spent a lot of time debating if there was an actual role for SFMC. A significant amount of time was spent on a number of occasions, including a SWOT style analysis enabled by an external facilitator. The outcome was overwhelming agreement that SFMC has a clear role to play.*
- *The role of the SFMC is primarily advice and advocacy, not operations.*
- *SFMC has five key measurable areas (strategic themes):*
  - **Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs) and Planning**  
*(SFMC provide support to FMACs, approve Fire Protection Plans (FPP) which identify strategic bushfire risk priorities, currently reviewing FPP framework and effectiveness of FMACs – new FMAC Draft Terms of Reference attached)*
  - **Policy**  
*(SFMC is developing a Policy framework and priorities for State policy and guidelines in relation to vegetation fire management – copy of Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy attached for information)*
  - **Collaboration, Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement**  
*(SFMC develop and maintain relationships with key stakeholders through network events, engagement and consultation)*
  - **Capacity and Awareness**  
*(Monitoring bushfire mitigation activities identified in FPPs, identify capacity gaps in relation to vegetation fire management, advise and assist with education and extension programs)*
  - **Research and Innovation**  
*(SFMC Research Sub-committee to identify gaps and research priorities within Tasmania, assist in promoting opportunities for research)*
- *SFMC provide advocacy and strategic decision making for Multi-agency Coordination Group (MAC) and Inter-agency Training Committee when required.*

- *Supporting documents attached for information:*
  - *SFMC Annual Report for 2016-17*
  - *SFMC Terms of Reference*
  - *FMAC Draft Terms of Reference*
  - *SFMC Strategic Business Planning Workshop Report*
  - *Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy*
  - *Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy Development Process*

**16. What is the appropriate membership of the SFMC and should the membership be prescribed in legislation?**

- *SFMC is successful because of membership.*
- *SFMC is seen to have a degree of independence, having an independent Chair has been seen to be a distinct advantage.*
- *SFMC should continue to report directly to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management and provide advice and support to member organisations/agencies.*
- *Minimum membership should be Tasmania Fire Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Local Government Authority of Tasmania and Private Forestry Sector.*
- *Minimum membership to be prescribed in Act*
- *Current duplication of members from TFS, STT and PWS – this is not required.*
- *Membership should be skills/knowledge based.*
- *Members should have appropriate authority to make decisions on behalf of their organisation/agency – senior representative e.g. CO or DCO.*
- *Members must have direct responsibility for ownership, leasing or managing land or deriving income from that land*
- *Additional private sector membership should be considered.*
- *It has been recognised that this Council presents a rare opportunity for land management agencies/representatives to meet.*
- *Current appointment of members should be streamlined – appointment by Minister only.*

**17. Should the State Fire Management Council have the power to appoint permit officers?**

- *No - Current process is not timely due to the recommendation from FMACS prior to appointment by SFMC. FMACs meet irregularly 2-3 times per year.*
- *TFS should have power to appoint.*

**18. Are the Fire Management Areas and the composition of the Fire Management Area Committees still appropriate?**

- *FMACs as they currently exist, are a relatively new concept. SFMC is working with FMACs to look at efficiencies and better governance arrangements.*
- *Terms of Reference for FMACs is currently being reviewed – new draft attached.*
- *Current Fire Protection Planning Project will be investigating options for better composition of FMACs as part of the Project.*
- *Opportunity to look at size of FMAs/FMACs – there are currently ten FMAs/FMACs with some organisational representatives sitting on all ten committees.*
- *Suggest regional model to reduce duplication, with more community engagement to ensure community bushfire risk priorities are ground trothed.*
- *There will be further opportunity to streamline and rationalise short to medium term.*

- 19. What opportunities exist to streamline Fire Management Area Committees with Emergency Management Committees?**
- *Opportunity to look at risk committees within emergency management.*
  - *Many members of FMACs also sit on Municipal Emergency Management Committees.*
  - *These duplicate members are required to do the same risk assessment training to identify strategic risks within their communities – FMACs produce Fire Protection Plans (for bushfire risk), which informs Municipal Emergency Management Plans.*
  - *This model would ease the burden on members and support arrangements (administration, planning officers, meeting schedule) and improve engagement of members.*
  - *Possibility to incorporate FMACs into Emergency Management Structure with oversight for bushfire risk to be maintained by SFMC.*
- 20. Should fire and emergency services be funded through a single mechanism? If so, what is the appropriate model?**
- *SFMC agree that there should be an independent mechanism for reliable, equitable and sustainable funding of fire and emergency services.*
- 21. Should SES centrally manage and fund its volunteer unit facilities, its fleet and its operational expenses?**
- *Combined Emergency Services funding model should be put in place.*
- 22. Should any new legislation bind the Crown?**
- *Yes.*
- 23. How should response, command and control arrangements be handled in new legislation?**
- *Operational matter, not for SFMC to comment.*
- 24. Should the Chain of Command be included in legislation with accountabilities included?**
- *High level structure to ensure clarity - agency responsibilities and accountabilities*
  - *Detail to be included in agency policy.*
- 25. Should endorsement of Incident Controllers be legislated? Making it clear that all emergency responders present at an incident are in all respects subject to the Incident Controller's direction or should Incident Controllers be endorsed through policy?**
- *If high level chain of command is included (agency responsibilities and accountabilities) Incident Controllers should be endorsed through policy.*
  - *All persons appointed to Incident Controllers or Officers in Incident Management Teams (whether from TFS, PWS, STT or other organisations) should be protected from liability. The job is particularly complex and some capable individuals have chosen in the past not to take on these roles because of the risks.*
- 26. Are the provisions relating to the establishment and composition of brigades still appropriate?**
- *Operational matter, not for SFMC to comment.*

- 27. Should Industry Brigades be recognised in legislation and have the ability to assist in emergency response outside the industry boundaries?**
- *Yes*
- 28. Should the Act be amended to specify these activities are exempt from the provisions of the LUPAA?**
- *Yes, land use planning is fundamental to the management of bushfire risk in Tasmania.*
  - *New development and ongoing maintenance of townships (urban interface) can be managed through planning schemes.*
- 29. Are the provisions relating to the declaration of Total Fire Bans still appropriate?**
- *SFMC initiated the Fire Permit Review and endorsed the final recommendations, these recommendations in this report cover off on Total Fire Bans.*
- 30. Should Community Education be an explicit function of SFC/TFS and should it include the SES?**
- *Yes, SFMC believe it is an explicit function of all emergency services to build community capacity.*
  - *Does not mean that all activities are delivered by TFS/SES.*
  - *Legislative impact study would be important to enable significant change.*
- 31. Is it still appropriate that TFS issues permits to install, maintain or repair fire protection equipment?**
- *No comment*
- 32. Should there be a whole of government Emergency Evacuation System that deals with all threats, not just fire risks, in the built environment?**
- *No comment*
- 33. Should prescribed buildings be categorised by risk potential?**
- *No comment*
- 34. Are the current levels and structure of penalties appropriate?**
- *Penalties could be revised to strengthen to potential prosecution in-line with bushfire infringement legislation.*
- 35. Are there other offences that should be considered for inclusion in new legislation?**
- *No comment*
- 36. Are the current protection from liability provisions appropriate?**
- *No comment.*

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **State Fire Management Council**

#### **Schedule 5**

- *Council meeting proceedings and schedule to be set within Terms of Reference and not prescribed in the Act.*

#### **Section 15 - Functions of Council**

- *(1) (c) No requirement to advise Commission on matters relating to the prevention and mitigation of vegetation fires – advice should be specifically to the TFS or appropriate land management agency.*
- *(1) (e) (f) SFMC to provide report on activity to Minister and TFS to include in Annual Report*

### **Fire Management Area Committees**

#### **Section 18**

- *Minimum membership to be prescribed*
- *FMAC meeting proceedings (including quorum) and schedule to be set within Terms of Reference.*
- *“(9) Except as provided in this section, a Committee may regulate its own procedure”. SFMC believe that to ensure consistency across the state of Committee outcomes and Fire Protection Plans that SFMC should set guidelines and procedures (including Terms of Reference) for FMACs.*

#### **Section 20**

- *(1) (c) Fire Protection Plan date for submission to be set by SFMC and prescribed in procedures not set in the Act.*

#### **Section 105**

- *Expenses incurred by SFMC and FMACs to be funded by TFS.*
- *Opportunity for other SFMC representative organisations/agencies to provide funding for specific projects.*





**STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17**

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*Cover photo: Supporting UTAS  
research – Photo by Warren Frey*

# Contents

<b>Report from the Independent Chair .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Our Mission .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>About Us.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Our Role.....	5
Our Members .....	6
Our Structure.....	7
<b>Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs) .....</b>	<b>8</b>
FMAC Purpose .....	8
FMAC Role .....	8
FMAC Membership.....	9
Fire Protection Plans.....	9
<b>Fire Management Areas (FMAs).....</b>	<b>10</b>
West Coast Fire Management Area .....	11
Tamar Fire Management Area .....	11
Southern Fire Management Area.....	11
North East Fire Management Area.....	11
Midlands Fire Management Area.....	12
King Island Fire Management Area .....	12
Hobart Fire Management Area .....	12
Flinders Fire Management Area .....	12
East Coast Fire Management Area .....	13
Central North Fire Management Area.....	13
<b>Strategic Direction Framework .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>THEME 1 Understand, communicate and manage risk .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>THEME 2 Advance Fire Management Area Committees .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>THEME 3 Foster and maintain effective relationship .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>THEME 4 Build community capacity .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>THEME 5 Continually improve SFMC capability, governance and organisational culture ...</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>THEME 6 Measure performance and effectiveness .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Glossary.....</b>	<b>24</b>

## Report from the Independent Chair

I am pleased to present the 2016-17 Annual Report on behalf of the State Fire Management Council (SFMC).

2016-17 has been an incredibly busy and productive year. The SFMC have made a conscious decision to take a strategic approach to our activities and concentrate on the six themes outlined in the SFMC Strategic Direction Framework. The SFMC have been focusing on; understanding, communicating and managing risk; fostering and maintaining effective relationships; and building community capacity.

A major role of the SFMC is to approve the ten Fire Protection Plans developed by Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs). These plans contribute to the State Governments Fuel Reduction Program by identifying priority areas which guide the implementation of the program. This is not easy task, and the SFMC are amazed at the high standard of the plans produced by the FMACs. Working with the FMACs, the SFMC are committed to continually improve capability, governance, the culture and consistency of reporting.

In keeping with the theme of maintaining relationships and building community capacity, the public profile of the SFMC has greatly increased during 2016-17. The increased profile has supported changing behaviour and improved understanding of fire in the landscape through education and extension, including:

- The SFMC partnering with the Fuel Reduction Program at Agfest as part of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers site,
- Facilitation of a stakeholder forum which gave over 40 stakeholder groups the opportunity to set the direction for the state vegetation fire management policy,
- Hosting the inaugural SFMC network event, which has provided stakeholders with education and networking opportunities,
- Hosting the annual FMAC Chairs forum,
- Increasing the media exposure of the SFMC and supporting key messages; and
- The development of the Planned Burning for Farmers and Landholders booklet.

It is proven that the SFMC efficiently and effectively provide high level strategic advice. This is due to the high calibre, and dedication of the SFMC membership. I would like to thank all the members for their commitment.

As you can see from this report, a huge amount of high quality and relevant work has been achieved. I would like to acknowledge the dedication, drive and hard work of Debra Pope the SFMC Executive Officer and all the Chairs and members of the FMACs.



Ian Sauer  
**Chair, State Fire Management Council**

## Our Mission

*“To enhance the efficient management of bushfire related risk in Tasmania in order to protect life, property and significant community values”.*

## About Us

The SFMC was originally established as the Fire Service Advisory Council under the *Fire Service Act 1979* (the Act) on 1 November 1979.

On 15 September 1995 the *Fire Service Reform Act 1975* amended the Act by disbanding the Fire Service Advisory Council and forming the SFMC.

## Our Role

Under Section 15 of the Act the Council has the following functions:

- a) to develop a State vegetation fire management policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning;
- b) to advise and report regularly to the Minister on such matters relating to the administration of this Act, as it applies to vegetation fire management, as are referred to it by the Minister and on such matters concerning vegetation fire management as, in the opinion of the Council, should be brought to the attention of the Minister;
- c) to advise the State Fire Commission (the Commission) on such matters relating to the prevention and extinguishment of vegetation fires as are referred to it by the Commission or land managers and on such other matters as, in the opinion of the Council, should be brought to the attention of the Commission;
- d) to perform such other functions relating to the prevention or extinguishment of vegetation fires as the Minister may direct;
- e) to provide an annual report to the Minister on its activities, for inclusion in the annual report of the Commission.

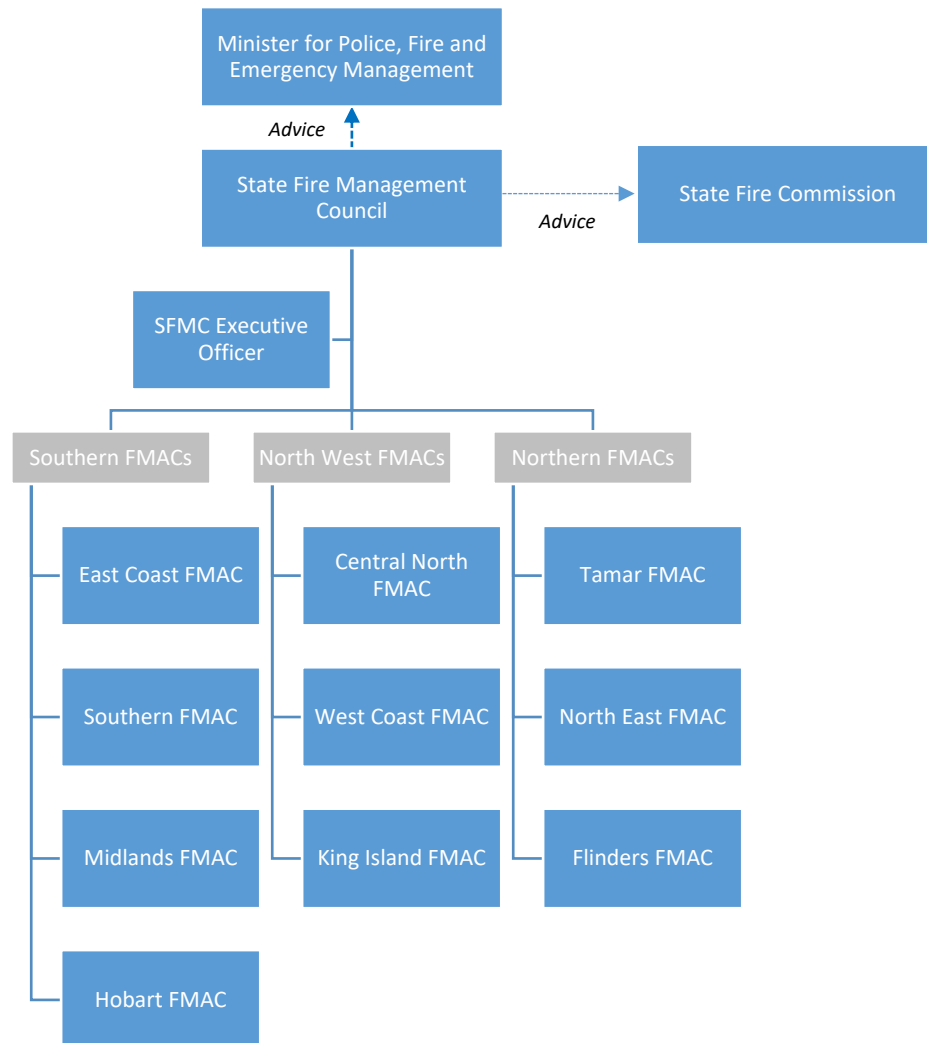
## Our Members

Council membership is specified under Section 14 of the Act, as of 30 June 2017 membership consisted of:

- a person nominated by the Minister (Chair, Ian Sauer);
- the Chief Officer of Tasmania Fire Service (Chris Arnol);
- a nominee of the Chief Officer (Deputy Chief, Gavin Freeman);
- the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation (Steve Whiteley);
- a nominee of the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation (General Manager Forest Management, Suzette Weeding);
- the Director of National Parks and Wildlife (General Manager – Deputy Secretary, Jason Jacobi);
- a nominee of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife (Director Operations, Mark Bryce);
- a person nominated by the Tasmanian Farmers' and Graziers' Association (John Atkinson);
- a person nominated by the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (Katy Edwards); and
- a person nominated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (Belinda Loxley).

Executive support to the SFMC and associated Fire Management Area Committees is provided by Tasmania Fire Service and coordinated through the SFMC Executive Officer Debra Pope.

## Our Structure



## Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs)

There are 10 Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs) within Tasmania. The primary role of a FMAC is to prepare a Fire Protection Plan (FPP) for their Fire Management Area (FMA).

FMACs identify and assess community bushfire risks in their FMA and prioritise strategic works in response to those risks, including areas for strategic fuel reduction burning.

FMACs are appointed under Section 18(1) of the Act, and they report to the SFMC.

### FMAC Purpose

*“To provide a platform for a consistent, comprehensive and cooperative approach to strategic planning in relation to fire protection and fuel management. This will be achieved through the provision of a vital link between the local brigades, local government, land managers (both private and public), a representative of other groups or organisations as may be appropriate or identified and approved by the SFMC.”*

### FMAC Role

Under Section 20 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs) have the following functions:

- a) to co-ordinate fire management activities within its Fire Management Area (FMA), including:
  - i) community education and information; and
  - ii) fuel management;
- b) to identify and assess community bushfire risks in its Fire Management Area and to prioritise strategic works in response to those risks;
- c) to submit to the Council, on or before 30 September of each year, a fire protection plan for its Fire Management Area for the next 12 months commencing on 1 October;
- d) to ensure that its fire protection plan is consistent with:
  - i) the State fire protection plan developed pursuant to section 8(1)(d); and
  - ii) the State vegetation fire management policy developed pursuant to section 15(1)(a); and
  - iii) such instructions or guidelines as the Council may from time to time issue to the Committee regarding the fire protection plan;
- e) to advise the Council on such matters relating to fire management and the Committee's other functions as the Council may refer to the Committee;
- f) to advise the Council on such matters concerning fire management as, in the opinion of the Committee, should be brought to the Council's attention;
- g) to perform such other functions relating to the prevention or mitigation of vegetation fires as the Council may direct.



## FMAC Membership

FMAC membership is defined under Section 18 of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

FMACs usually consist of representatives from Tasmania Fire Service (career and volunteer), Local Government, Sustainable Timber Tasmania (formerly Forestry Tasmania), Parks and Wildlife Service, Wellington Park Trust (if included in the FMA), Tasmanian Farmers and Grazier's Association, relevant utility companies, and other large key land managers in the FMA.

## Fire Protection Plans

The objective of the Fire Protection Plan (FPP) is to effectively manage bushfire related risk within the FMA in order to protect people, assets and other things valuable to the community. In preparing the FPP, a tenure blind approach to strategic fuel management is taken to identify and prioritise bushfire risks in the landscape and strategically identify work that can be done to mitigate that risk, including areas for strategic fuel reduction burning.

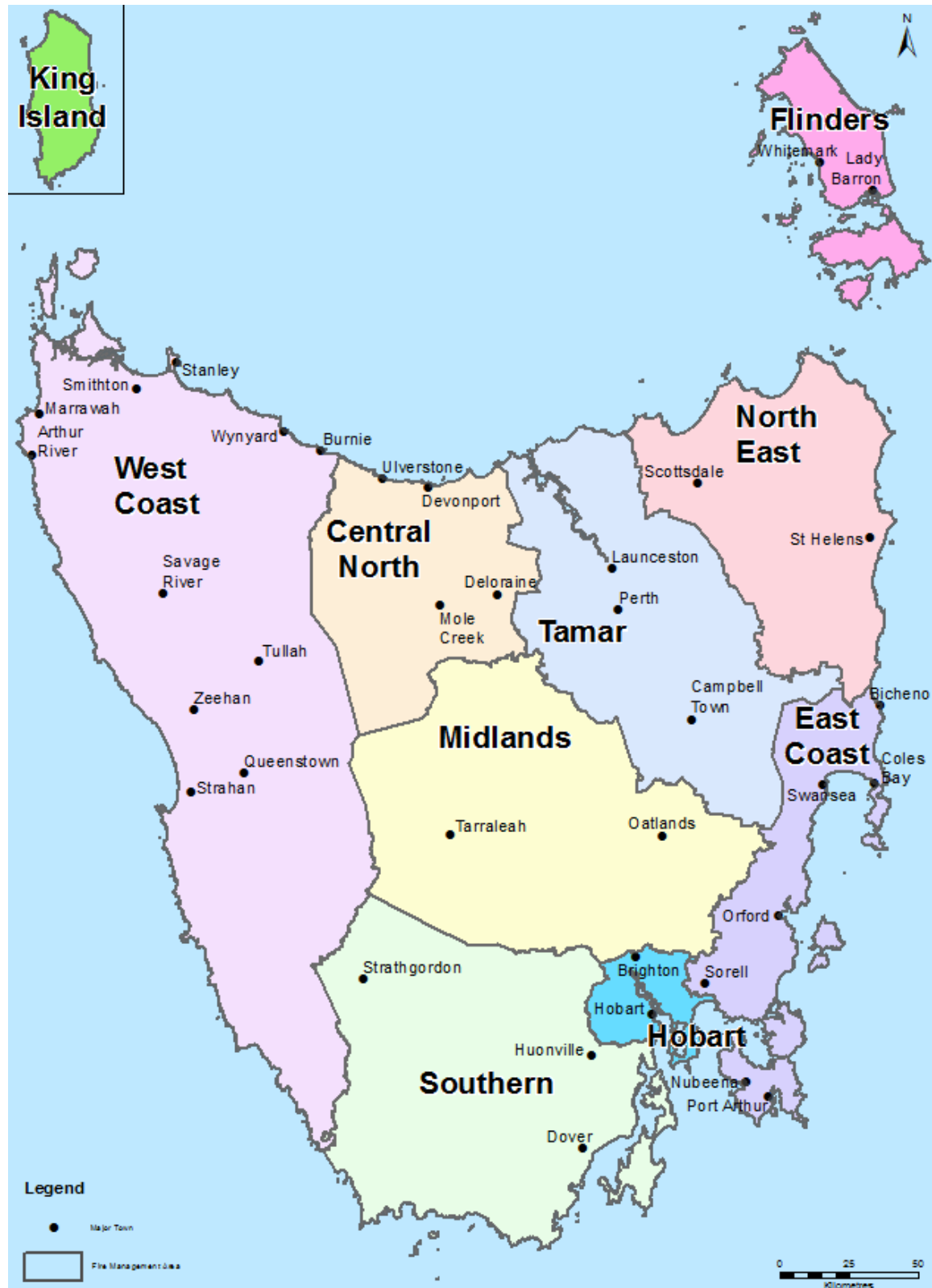
The priorities identified through the FPPs guide the implementation of the Fuel Reduction Program.

The management of bushfire related risk is not the sole responsibility of any one land manager or agency. It is a shared responsibility of the whole community. The tenure blind approach to bushfire risk mitigation planning as undertaken by FMACs creates opportunities for collaboration between public and private land managers and owners and promotes the development of a centrally coordinated bushfire risk mitigation program.

FPPs can be viewed at [www.sfmc.tas.gov.au](http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au).

## Fire Management Areas (FMAs)

There are 10 Fire Management Areas (FMAs) in Tasmania with boundaries based on bushfire risk and topography, largely aligning to local government boundaries. Each of these FMAs is supported by a Fire Management Area Committee (FMAC).



## West Coast Fire Management Area

The West Coast FMA covers just over 1.9 million hectares and has an estimated residential population of 45 900 people. The FMA extends westwards from the township of Heybridge on Tasmania's north-west coast to Cape Grim on the west coast and southwards as far as Davey Head. The FMA also encompasses Robbins Island, Hunter Island and Three Hummock Island in Bass Strait.

A substantial proportion of West Coast FMA is formally reserved with larger reserves within the planning area including part of Cradle Mountain/Lake St Clair National Park, Franklin – Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, the Southwest Conservation Area (which all form part of the Western Tasmania World Heritage Area) and Savage River National Park in the north of the planning area.

Vegetation is well adapted to fire and, in recent times, the area has experienced a high frequency of fast moving bushfires which have burnt out large areas of the FMA. While the FMA contains a significant percentage of low flammability vegetation types it also contains even larger amounts of highly flammable vegetation in the form of button grass moorland, sedgeland, rushland and peatland in addition to scrub and heathland.

## Tamar Fire Management Area

The Tamar FMA is located in the north of Tasmania and encompasses Launceston City and the Tamar River estuary. It covers a total area of 859 086 hectares with an estimated population of 128 000.

The FMA is dominated by agricultural and pastoral activities, particularly; meat production, apples, berries and viticulture. The Tamar Valley is one of Tasmania's leading wine producing areas.

## Southern Fire Management Area

The Southern FMA is approximately 1 037 000 hectares in size and covers three local government areas (Derwent Valley, Kingborough and Huon Valley). Much of the area is uninhabited and forms part of the South West National Park.

The majority of the population in the FMA is found in the southern settlements of Hobart, the Huon Valley and along the D'entrecasteaux Channel. Significant populations are also located around New Norfolk with smaller populations located in the Tyenna Valley.

## North East Fire Management Area

The North East FMA is approximately 681 193 hectares in size and encompasses two local government areas (Dorset and Break O'Day). The FMA covers an area bounded by the coast to the north and extending in south easterly direction from the mouth of the Pipers Brook to just below the mouth of the Douglas River on the east coast of Tasmania.

The permanent population of the North East FMA is estimated to be around 13 500 though this number increases markedly during the summer period though influx of tourists and absentee landowners.

## Midlands Fire Management Area

The Midlands Fire Management Area is approximately 1 059 000 hectares in size and covers two local government areas (Central Highlands and Southern Midlands). Approximately 8 000 people live within the Midlands FMA, predominately around the South East corner, closest to the outer settlements of Hobart.

The Midlands FMA also contains smaller isolated communities located in the Upper Derwent Valley and Central Highlands. Shack communities are present around a number of the Highland lakes, with the population in these communities being seasonally variable.

## King Island Fire Management Area

The King Island FMA covers the whole of King Island, an area of 11 975 hectares. King Island has an estimated residential population of 1 646 people.

King Island lies at the western entrance to the Bass Strait, midway between the state of Victoria and mainland Tasmania in the path of the “Roaring Forties”, a strong prevailing westerly wind that regularly reaches over 100km per hour. The island is generally quite flat, with the highest point being 168m above sea level at Gentle Annie in the south east of the Island.

## Hobart Fire Management Area

The Hobart FMA is approximately 110 000 hectares in size. It includes the local government areas of Hobart, Glenorchy, Clarence, Brighton and parts of Kingborough, Huon Valley and Derwent Valley.

The Hobart FMA has two very distinct geographical features; firstly the area is bisected by the River Derwent, and secondly the Wellington Range borders many Hobart suburbs to the west, creating a long urban/bush interface. Tasmania’s most extreme fire weather events often occur within, and in areas adjacent to, the Hobart FMA. Rainfall varies considerably over the area (1 600mm per year on the summit of Mt Wellington to less than 500mm per year at the Hobart Airport) resulting in a highly variable fire season with some areas being able to sustain fire for many months of the year.

## Flinders Fire Management Area

The Flinders FMA covers an area of approximately 206 046 hectares which includes the whole Flinders local government area and encompasses all the islands of the Furneaux Group.

The Furneaux Island Group is an archipelago of approximately 50 islands located in Bass Strait between mainland Australia and Tasmania. The largest island is Flinders Island followed by Cape Barren and Clarke Island. The Furneaux Islands have an estimated resident population of 784.

## East Coast Fire Management Area

The East Coast FMA is approximately 393 000 ha in size and covers three local government areas (Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell and Tasman). Geographically it follows the coastline from the Tasman Peninsular in the South to Bicheno in the North.

The majority of the population within the East Coast FMA is predominately located around the south east corner, closest to the outer settlements of Hobart. The East Coast FMA also contains smaller coastal communities spread along the coast line. The East Coast is a popular tourist destination which results in a large influx of visitors particularly during the summer months.

## Central North Fire Management Area

The Central North FMA is located in central northern Tasmania and covers an area of 550 464 hectares. The FMA extends westwards along the north coast from Badger Head to Heybridge. The southern part of the FMA extends westward from Golden Valley to the middle of Walls of Jerusalem National Park.

The Central North FMA has an estimated residential population of 82 000 people and contains a mix of fertile agricultural land, wineries, dispersed rural communities and large areas of national park (including the Mole Creek Karst caves and The Walls of Jerusalem National Park which is part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area).

Forty per cent of Tasmania's vegetable crop is produced in the Mersey/Forth valley area in the central northern part of the FMA. Significant built infrastructure assets in the region include Origin Energy's LPG Operation at Devonport and the Alinta natural gas pipeline offtake at Westbury. Critical infrastructure within the Central North FMA includes radio communications towers at Kelsey Tier, Mt Claude and Dazzler Range and the Orica storage facilities at Heybridge and Dulverton.

## Strategic Direction Framework

The SFMC Strategic Direction Framework identifies six themes which represent a number of objectives and outcome statements.

SFMC Theme	Objectives	Outcomes
<b>THEME 1</b> <b>Understand, Communicate and Manage Risk</b>	1.1 Identify and manage risks that impact on program outcomes and stakeholder relationships 1.2 Understand and communicate information regarding risk assessment and program limitations to the Minister and stakeholders 1.3 Promote consistency in the way fire is managed in Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk identification and management capability, including an understanding of vegetation fire risk and risk management options</li> <li>• Shared risk management understanding and responsibility with stakeholders</li> <li>• Effective communication and engagement processes</li> <li>• Management of risk within a climate change context</li> </ul>
<b>THEME 2</b> <b>Advance Fire Management Area Committees</b>	2.1 Support the further development and maturation of Fire Management Area Committees 2.2 Promote and support minimum standards and consistent and common approaches by all Fire Management Area Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed standards and consistency across all Fire Management Area Committees</li> <li>• Advancement in functionality and performance</li> </ul>
<b>THEME 3</b> <b>Foster and Maintain Effective Relationships</b>	3.1 Identify and further develop existing relationships with key stakeholders and the community 3.2 Establish new relationships with relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong commitment and engagement with stakeholders</li> <li>• Shared responsibility and commitment by land managers and the community</li> <li>• Connection with all relevant stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>THEME 4</b> <b>Build Community Capacity</b>	4.1 Educate the community regarding bushfire risks in Tasmania 4.2 Increase community understanding and acceptance of vegetation management practices which address bushfire risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informed and competent community actions and activity</li> </ul>
<b>THEME 5</b> <b>Continually Improve SFMC Capability, Governance and Organisational Culture</b>	5.1 Further increase the capacity and capability of the State Fire Management Council 5.2 Actively monitor and address any loss of capability 5.3 Embed 'best practice' governance principles and practices in the culture and operations of the Council 5.4 Further develop evidence based and informed decision making processes of the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity to measure and analyse performance of the State Fire Management Council</li> <li>• Effective accountable results</li> <li>• Access to additional expertise</li> </ul>
<b>THEME 6</b> <b>Measure Performance and Effectiveness</b>	6.1 Determine and measure program goals and priorities 6.2 Monitor, evaluate and report on program outputs and outcomes (including post fuel reduction burns and implementation of program initiatives). 6.3 Measure community acceptance and understanding of fuel reduction activities and other program initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity to measure and analyse performance of initiatives and programs</li> </ul>

## THEME 1

# Understand, communicate and manage risk

## Objectives

- 1.1 Identify and manage risks that impact on program outcomes and stakeholder relationships.
- 1.2 Understand and communicate information regarding risk assessment and program limitations to the Minister and stakeholders.
- 1.3 Promote consistency in the way fire is managed in Tasmania.

## Outcomes

- Risk identification and management capability, including an understanding of vegetation fire risk and risk management options.
- Shared risk management understanding and responsibility with stakeholders.
- Effective communication and engagement processes.
- Management of risk within a climate change context.

## Achievements

### State-wide Strategic Planning

The SFMC facilitates the production of a range of tools that supports effective vegetation fire management in Tasmania.

- The strategic relative risk of bushfire in Tasmania was reviewed in October 2016. Risk outcomes were presented to SFMC in February 2017 and were communicated to FMACs by Fuel Reduction Unit Planners during the FPP review process.
- New interactive Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) Charts were developed during 2016 and are now available on the SFMC website. Up until July 2016, FFDI was calculated using data obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) automatic weather stations. The new interactive graphs now show how FFDI fluctuates over the calendar year. This new tool also allows for comparison between the different weather stations.

### State Vegetation Fire Management Policy

One of the main roles of SFMC is to develop a State vegetation fire management policy. The policy aims to provide an agreed set of principles and strategies to enable the safe and effective conduct of vegetation fire management activities in Tasmania.

Tasmania is already breaking new ground in its approach to planned bushfire mitigation activities through the Fuel Reduction Program, and SFMC is building on this by re-developing the state policy to address both current and predicted future needs of Tasmanians.

The formal review of the policy commenced in October 2016, and has involved extensive stakeholder consultation at a number of key stages.

The SFMC took the bold approach to invite all major stakeholders to meet and discuss their perspective of the opportunities and threats, in relation to vegetation fire management in Tasmania. This was a critical first step of the review process and provided stakeholders with the opportunity to be meaningfully engaged in defining the policy scope, principles, strategies and responsibilities.

This workshop also assisted in strengthening the cooperation and understanding between the public and private sectors.

The SFMC was overwhelmed by the enthusiastic participation of stakeholders in the review process and their interest in maintaining relationships. This interest resulted in additional rounds of consultation being undertaken during the policy development process.



*The State vegetation fire management policy workshop; participants setting the future direction of the policy.*



## THEME 2

# Advance Fire Management Area Committees

## Objectives

- 2.1 Support the further development and maturation of Fire Management Area Committees
- 2.2 Promote and support minimum standards and consistent and common approaches by all Fire Management Area Committees

## Outcomes

- Agreed standards and consistency across all Fire Management Area Committees
- Advancement in functionality and performance

## Achievements

### Communication and Support

SFMC is committed to working collaboratively with FMACs to identify and prioritise bushfire risk and prioritise strategic mitigation activities.

In August 2016, FMAC Chairs and SFMC members met at their annual forum to report on performance, communicate change and discuss the future strategic direction.

The work of SFMC and FMACs was a focus in the TFS Fireground magazine in March 2017. The article highlighted the role of Councils and FMACs and profiled the West Coast FMAC.



*Some of the West Coast FMAC Members: Bill Walker (Waratah-Wynyard Council), Julie Chair, Bernhagen (Circular Head Council), Michael Foster (Burnie City Council), Tyron Clarke (Tasmania Fire Service) and Wayne Richards (State Emergency Service).*

## **Fire Protection Plans (FPPs)**

SFMC support the identification of bushfire risk in Tasmania by approving FPPs developed by FMACs. These plans identify and prioritise bushfire risk in the landscape and strategically identify work that can be done to mitigate that risk.

All FMACs submitted FPPs to the SFMC within agreed timeframes, subsequently all plans were endorsed without amendment. SFMC was very impressed with the professionalism and detail included in the plans.

The FPPs have been instrumental in the identification of priority areas for the implementation of the whole-of-government fuel reduction program.

FMACs also highlighted the importance of FPPs being used as a tool to support operations. As a result, FPPs are now available in the 'Operational Tools' section of the TFS intranet. This information was communicated to TFS staff and volunteers through the Fireground magazine and internal newsletters.

## **Professional Development and Networking**

SFMC and FMACs attended a number of events which supported both professional development and assisted in raising awareness of both the SFMC and FMACs. Events included the multi-agency pre-season bushfire briefing, Tasmanian Fire and Emergency Services Conference and participation in the State vegetation fire management policy review.

### THEME 3

## Foster and maintain effective relationship

### Objectives

- 3.1 Identify and further develop existing relationships with key stakeholders and the community
- 3.2 Establish new relationships with relevant stakeholders

### Outcomes

- Strong commitment and engagement with stakeholders
- Shared responsibility and commitment by land managers and the community
- Connection with all relevant stakeholders

### Achievements

#### Learning Network Events

The inaugural SFMC network event was held in Hobart in May 2017. The events are aimed at fostering networks and knowledge in relation to vegetation fire management in Tasmania. The concept, aimed at developing professional networks, learning and sharing knowledge, was identified as a priority by stakeholders who participated in the review of the State vegetation fire management policy.

The first event was presented by Fuel Reduction Unit Regional Planner, Bernard Plumpton. It provided participants with an overview of the vegetation fire management planning frameworks, concepts and tools used in Tasmania.

#### Stakeholder Relationships

SFMC identified and developed a strategic stakeholder engagement register during 2016-17. The register supports effective communication and assists the SFMC in developing and maintaining important relationships.

SFMC is committed to flexible engagement strategies to suit different audiences. In May 2017, SFMC partnered with the Fuel Reduction Program as part of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers site at AGFEST. This enabled SFMC and the Fuel Reduction Program to specifically target the larger rural landholders and provide appropriate advice and support on managing their bushfire risk.

## THEME 4

# Build community capacity

## Objectives

- 4.1 Educate the community regarding bushfire risks in Tasmania
- 4.2 Increase community understanding and acceptance of vegetation management practices which address bushfire risk

## Outcomes

- Informed and competent community actions and activity

## Achievements

### Red Hot Tips

*Red Hot Tips* is a capacity building program aimed at increasing the knowledge, skills and confidence of private landholders in rural areas to manage bushfire risk on their property. The program was established in 2013 and has a particular focus on planned burning.

The final round of the Red Hot Tips Program concluded in May 2017, which exceeded all agreed deliverables, and has had a measurable impact on the level of successful burning undertaken by private property owners who participated.

A quotation process to engage a provider to continue the *Red Hot Tips* program commenced late 2016, unfortunately no quotations were successful. SFMC is investigating more cost effective, collaborative and flexible options for continuing this program.



*Red Hot Tip participants during the planned burn at Barton. Photo by Warren Frey*

## Supporting Farmers and Landholders

During 2016-17, SFMC continued to build community capacity in managing bushfire risk, with a particular focus on the use of fire as a land management tool in rural communities.

The *Planned Burning for Farmers and Landholders* booklet was officially launched at Agfest by Hon. Rene Hidding, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management. The resource provides private landholders with useful information, tools and checklists that assist in safely planning and undertaking planned burning activities on their properties and continues to support the objectives of the *Red Hot Tip* program.

The guide was developed by a small working group made up of representatives from SFMC member agencies and organisations.

*Red Hot Tips* program resources, specifically the Planned Burning Manual, were used to assist in the development of this guide.

The resource received positive feedback and was promoted through a variety of media sources, it was downloaded from the SFMC website on 207 occasion from the launch date until the end of the financial year (57 days).

SFMC was also approached by a number of organisations requesting permission to use the resource which resulted in additional promotion on social media and external websites including; The Forest Practices Authority; Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment; FarmPoint; Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association; and numerous local government websites.

The booklet is available on SFMC website [www.sfmc@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:www.sfmc@fire.tas.gov.au)



*Left to Right: John Atkinson (SFMC, TFGA Representative), Stephen Lowe (TFS District Officer), A/Deputy Chief Officer Jeffrey Harper (State Fire Management Council), Sandy Whight (Manager, Fuel Reduction Unit), Lindsay White (Chair, East Coast Fire Management Area Committee), The Hon. Rene Hidding MP (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services), Ian Sauer (Chair, State Fire Management Council), Peter Skillern (Chief Executive Officer, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association), Wayne Johnston (President, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association).*



## THEME 5

# Continually improve SFMC capability, governance and organisational culture

## Objectives

- 5.1 Further increase the capacity and capability of the State Fire Management Council
- 5.2 Actively monitor and address any loss of capability
- 5.3 Embed 'best practice' governance principles and practices in the culture and operations of the Council
- 5.4 Further develop evidence based and informed decision making processes of the Council

## Outcomes

- Capacity to measure and analyse performance of the State Fire Management Council
- Effective accountable results
- Access to additional expertise

## Achievements

An Executive Officer was appointed to SFMC in 2016 to assist in delivering its functions, implement policies and provide advice on issues of bushfire risk at the state-wide level.

The Executive Officer role develops and implements strategies that also support FMACs and commenced work on standardising business planning and process, tools, templates and improving communication methods.

### Effective Membership

A membership audit was conducted of SFMC and FMACs to ensure legislative compliance and the maintenance of a broad and effective membership. As a result a number of additional members were appointed to FMACs.

## Supporting Research

In May 2017, SFMC facilitated a fuel reduction burn at Barton north of Cressy. The burn was conducted as part of the *Red Hot Tips* program.

Along with guiding private landholders through a fuel reduction burn process, the activity supported a research project being conducted by the University of Tasmania, School of Biological Sciences. The main focus of the research was to establish how fire impacts the habitat of small marsupials, in particular Bettongs.

SFMC is committed to providing opportunities for independent science based research and are proud to support local research opportunities within Tasmania.

## THEME 6

# Measure performance and effectiveness

### Objectives

- 6.1 Determine and measure program goals and priorities
- 6.2 Monitor, evaluate and report on program outputs and outcomes (including post fuel reduction burns and implementation of program initiatives).
- 6.3 Measure community acceptance and understanding of fuel reduction activities and other program initiatives

### Outcomes

- Capacity to measure and analyse performance of initiatives and programs

### Achievements

SFMC has a legislative responsibility to report regularly to the Minister and provide advice to the Commission.

SFMC provide coordinated annual and quarterly communication to the Minister, along with additional updates as required. Reports are also provided on a monthly basis to SFC for information.

During 2016, SFMC finalised the work plan to support the Strategic Directions Framework. This plan has enabled SFMC to monitor, evaluate and report on their performance, including; outcomes, recommendations and identify areas for improvement.

## Glossary

<b>SFMC</b>	State Fire Management Council
<b>FMAC</b>	Fire Management Area Committee
<b>FMA</b>	Fire Managment Area
<b>FPP</b>	Fire Protection Plan
<b>TFGA</b>	Tasmanian Farmers Graziers Association
<b>TFS</b>	Tasmania Fire Service
<b>SFC</b>	State Fire Commission
<b>The Act</b>	<i>Fire Service Act 1979</i>







## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### XXXX Fire Management Area Committee

For further information please contact:

State Fire Management Council  
Phone (03) 6225 8533,  
or email at [sfmc@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:sfmc@fire.tas.gov.au)

Online information available at:  
[www.sfmc.tas.gov.au](http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au)

## Contents

1.	Introduction.....	4
2.	Background.....	4
3.	Purpose .....	4
4.	Appointment .....	5
5.	Responsibilities.....	5
	<i>5.1 Collaboration – Stakeholder Engagement .....</i>	<i>7</i>
6.	Governance .....	7
7.	Membership .....	8
8.	Roles and responsibilities of Chair and Deputy Chair .....	8
9.	Length of term.....	8
10.	Induction .....	8
11.	Quorum .....	9
12.	Proxies.....	9
13.	Procedural requirements.....	9
14.	Minutes .....	9
15.	Meeting schedule .....	9
16.	Conduct of meetings .....	9
17.	Declaration of interests .....	10
18.	Sub-groups .....	10
19.	Member training and development .....	10
20.	Other FMAC activities.....	10
21.	Support.....	10
22.	Review of Terms of Reference.....	10
23.	Acronyms.....	11
24.	Appendix 1 – FMA Boundaries .....	12

## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide understanding and clarity around the role, purpose and governance of Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs).

## 2. Background

The State Fire Management Council (SFMC), under Section 18 of the *Fire Service Act 1979 (the Act)*, establish FMACs for each Fire Management Area (FMA) of Tasmania.

There are 10 FMAs in Tasmania with boundaries based on bushfire risk and topography, largely aligning to local government boundaries.

## 3. Purpose

FMACs provide a forum for effective vegetation fire management in FMAs through a consistent, comprehensive and cooperative approach.

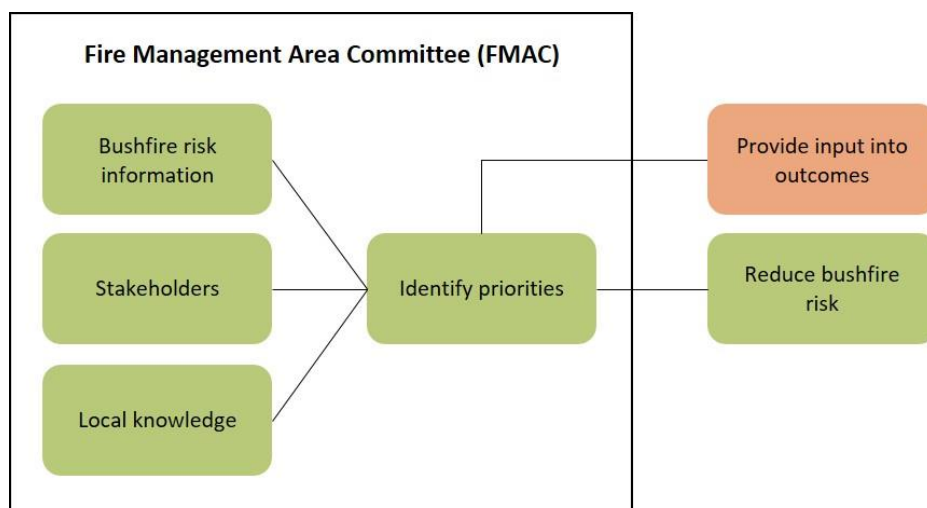
**‘Vegetation fire management activity’** is defined in the *Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy (TVFMP)* as:

*All activities that relate to the control, use and management of vegetation. Includes for agriculture/silvicultural purposes, cultural practice, weed management, bushfire mitigation, ecological management and bushfire suppression. It includes legislation, policy, procedure, planning and operational activities.*

FMACs:

- Provide a forum for communication and collaboration between key stakeholders in the FMA;
- Enable a holistic and consistent approach, incorporating local knowledge, to identify strategic priorities to reduce bushfire risk (See Figure 1);
- Coordinate efforts and facilitate resource sharing to implement the strategic risk reduction priorities;
- Link the local community and the SFMC through ‘ground-truthing’ the bushfire risk assessment and mitigation strategies; and
- Through their advisory function, provide input into decisions and outcomes beyond the Fire Management Area.

Figure 1. FMACs enable a holistic approach to bushfire risk reduction.



## 4. Appointment

FMACs are established under *the Act*.

The (INSERT FMA) FMA has been declared by notice from the State Fire Management Council under Section 17 (1) of *the Act*.

The (INSERT FMA) FMA boundary was gazetted on (DATE), and is responsible for the area shown on the map in Appendix 1.

The FMAC is responsible to the SFMC.

## 5. Responsibilities

The functions of FMACs are set out in [Part II Division 2](#) of *the Act*.


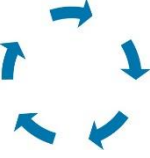


FMACs have four core functions, summarised in the *Table 1* below:

- Identification of strategic priorities;
- Fire protection planning;
- Collaboration; and
- Other functions.

These functions are explained in the following table.

A FMAC has power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done in connection with the performance of its functions.

Table 1. FMACs core functions.

Identify strategic priorities		
	<i>Elements</i>	<i>Key Measures of Success</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and assess community bushfire risks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A consistent strategic bushfire risk methodology is used to identify and assess risks and prioritise strategic risk treatment options, in line with the TVFMP</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritise strategic works in response to those risks</li> </ul>	
Fire protection planning		
	<i>Elements</i>	<i>Key Measures of Success</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire Protection Plan (FPP) describes the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery arrangements for one or more hazards</li> <li>Submit FPP to SFMC annually for the following 12 months</li> <li>Ensure FPP is consistent with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Fire Protection Plan (SFPP)</li> <li>TVFMP</li> <li>SFMC instructions and/or guidelines</li> <li>Other applicable management plans</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The FPP is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted to SFMC by agreed date</li> <li>Consistent with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SFPP</li> <li>TVFMP</li> <li>SFMC instructions and guidelines</li> <li>Applicable management plans</li> </ul> </li> <li>Effective to protect the community by reducing bushfire risk across multiple tenures. Bushfire risk reduction measures are tracked over time.</li> <li>Used by stakeholders within the FMA to inform their vegetation fire management activities</li> </ul>
Collaboration		
	<i>Elements</i>	<i>Key Measures of Success</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate fire management activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community education and information</li> <li>Fuel management (see 5.1 Collaboration – Stakeholder Engagement)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The FMAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forms effective relationships with, and facilitates relationship-building between, stakeholders in the FMA</li> <li>Communicates effectively to inform, educate and receive information from stakeholders in the FMA</li> <li>Ensures local knowledge is captured and informs the FPP, including identification of strategic priorities, planning and implementation</li> <li>Coordinates stakeholders and facilitates resource sharing to implement vegetation fire management activities in accordance with the FPP</li> <li>Ensures vegetation fire management activities are planned and conducted in accordance with the TVFMP Principles and Strategies</li> </ul>
Other functions		
	<i>Elements</i>	<i>Key Measures of Success</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise SFMC on matters relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire management</li> <li>The FMACs other functions</li> </ul> </li> <li>Comply with directions given by SFMC</li> </ul>	<p>The FMAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complies with directions given by SFMC</li> <li>Provides timely advice on matters referred by SFMC</li> <li>Identifies and advises SFMC of community issues in the FMA</li> <li>Provides advice to SFMC as appropriate on matters relating to the FMACs other functions.</li> <li>Has an effective relationship with the SFMC and is responsive to feedback.</li> </ul>

## 5.1 Collaboration – Stakeholder Engagement

Collaboration underpins all of the FMACs functions.

Collaboration facilitates and supports engagement, enabling stakeholders to jointly consider common challenges and generate solutions.

Collaboration is achieved by FMACs through the following activities.

- Facilitating community input into Fire Protection Plans (FPPs);
- Establishing common vegetation fire management priorities;
- Building relationships and community awareness;
- Sharing knowledge;
- Providing an avenue for the community to comment on bushfire risk and vegetation fire management;
- Communicating community concerns to the SFMC;
- Engaging with SFMC and Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) initiatives that support a bushfire ready community;
- Providing a point of coordination and cooperation for FMAC members;
- Identifying gaps in vegetation fire management;
- Facilitating resource sharing to enable effective mitigation activities, within and across FMACs;
- Identifying and addressing barriers to the implementation of mitigation activities.

## 6. Governance

Each FMAC and its members are accountable to the SFMC. In relation to FMACs, the SFMC is in turn accountable to the State Fire Commission (SFC).

The SFMC may:

- Appoint (and remove) FMAC members;
- Issues instructions or guidelines regarding the FPP;
- Refer matters to the FMAC for advice ; and
- Give directions to a FMAC.

FMACs must comply with directions given by the SFMC.



## 7. Membership

The membership of a FMAC should include an adequate range of stakeholder representatives to enable the committee to fulfil its purpose and perform its functions effectively.

Section 18 of *the Act* provides that membership of each FMAC must include:

- TFS Officer nominated by the Chief Officer;
- Local council representatives of each local council whose municipal area lies wholly or partly within the FMA or a person jointly nominated by those councils;
- Sustainable Timber Tasmania nominee if the FMA contains or borders State forest;
- Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment nominee if the FMA contains or is adjacent to any reserved land;
- a person jointly nominated by the Brigade Chiefs' of the brigades wholly or partly within the FMA;
- Wellington Park Management Trust nominee if the FMA includes any part of Wellington Park.

The above membership appointments may be approved by FMACs. Once approved SFMC should be formally notified of the appointment.

The FMAC may request additional representatives based on the unique requirements of the FMA. SFMC will consider these requests on a case-by-case basis.

All nominees for FMACs should:

- Be directly responsible for vegetation management and/or critical infrastructure;
- Have authority to make decisions on behalf of the organisation they represent; and
- Have relevant skills, knowledge and experience.

## 8. Roles and responsibilities of Chair and Deputy Chair

The Chair will be elected by the members of the FMAC. The term of the chair is for a maximum of three-years.

It is recommended that a Deputy Chair also be elected.

The FMAC Chair and Deputy Chair Statement of Duties applies to these roles.

## 9. Length of term

Members are appointed for a three-year term with the option to renew for one further term.

## 10. Induction

All new members will receive an induction from the FMAC Chair about the FMACs purpose and functions and their roles and responsibilities as a member.

All members must sign the Code of Conduct prior to formal appointment to the FMAC.

## 11. Quorum

The quorum of meetings is half of the total number of members, plus one. Members may attend via telephone or video link.

## 12. Proxies

When a member cannot attend a meeting, they can arrange for a proxy to attend in their place, who can appropriately represent and make decisions on behalf of their organisation.

Proxies should be nominated to the Chair prior to the meeting.

## 13. Procedural requirements

Under *the Act*, a FMAC may regulate its own procedure subject to a certain number of minimum requirements. In addition to those minimum requirements these Terms of Reference contain mandatory directions from the SFMC to the FMAC about how it is to carry out its functions.

## 14. Minutes

Each FMAC must keep accurate minutes of its meetings.

All minutes, agendas and papers generated by the FMAC are to be forwarded to the SFMC after each meeting, for filing in the TFS records management system.

## 15. Meeting schedule

It is recommended that a minimum of three meetings be held annually and to include one meeting before and one meeting after each bushfire/planned burning season.

A meeting may be convened by the Chair or by any two members.

The annual meeting schedule for each FMAC will be agreed by the members at the last meeting of each calendar year. It must include a sufficient number of meetings to enable the FMAC to fulfil its responsibilities, in particular, the building of effective relationships between stakeholders.

Decisions may be made out of session by circular resolution. However, this does not alter the requirement for the FMAC to hold an adequate number of meetings.

## 16. Conduct of meetings

The Chair is responsible for ensuring that the agenda and papers for each meeting are circulated at least five working days prior to each meeting.

All members must:

- Read the meeting papers prior to the meeting;
- Participate constructively in discussion;
- Know and understand the responsibilities and role of the FMAC;
- Function as a team, working with others effectively;
- Behave in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

## 17. Declaration of interests

Any actual or potential conflicts of interest must be declared and recorded in the minutes at the commencement of each meeting.

Members are not permitted to be present for, or participate in discussion or voting about agenda items in which they have a conflict of interest.

## 18. Sub-groups

Sub-groups may be established from time to time to undertake specific projects. Such groups will work to terms of reference determined by the FMAC and are required to maintain appropriate confidentiality.

Sub-groups may also be formed to support local area bushfire planning and mitigation activities.

## 19. Member training and development

The SFMC provides member training sessions from time to time in matters relevant to the FMAC. All members are encouraged to attend these sessions.

FMACs are encouraged to identify any training needs they may have and to discuss these with the SFMC.

## 20. Other FMAC activities

In addition to the meeting schedule, the FMAC may schedule other activities that it considers are necessary or convenient to the performance of its functions, such as public information or education sessions, vegetation fire management workshops etc. Such events are not meetings of the FMAC.

## 21. Support

The SFMC has developed several templates and resources to assist FMACs to perform their function.

Additionally, the SFMC facilitates access to support from TFS. This support includes:

- Administrative support including preparation of meeting papers and records management;
- Assistance in preparing grant applications;
- Technical support for bushfire risk identification, risk assessment and bushfire protection planning; and
- May include other assistance from time to time.

Requests for assistance should be made by the Chair on behalf of the FMAC and directed to the Executive Officers, SFMC.

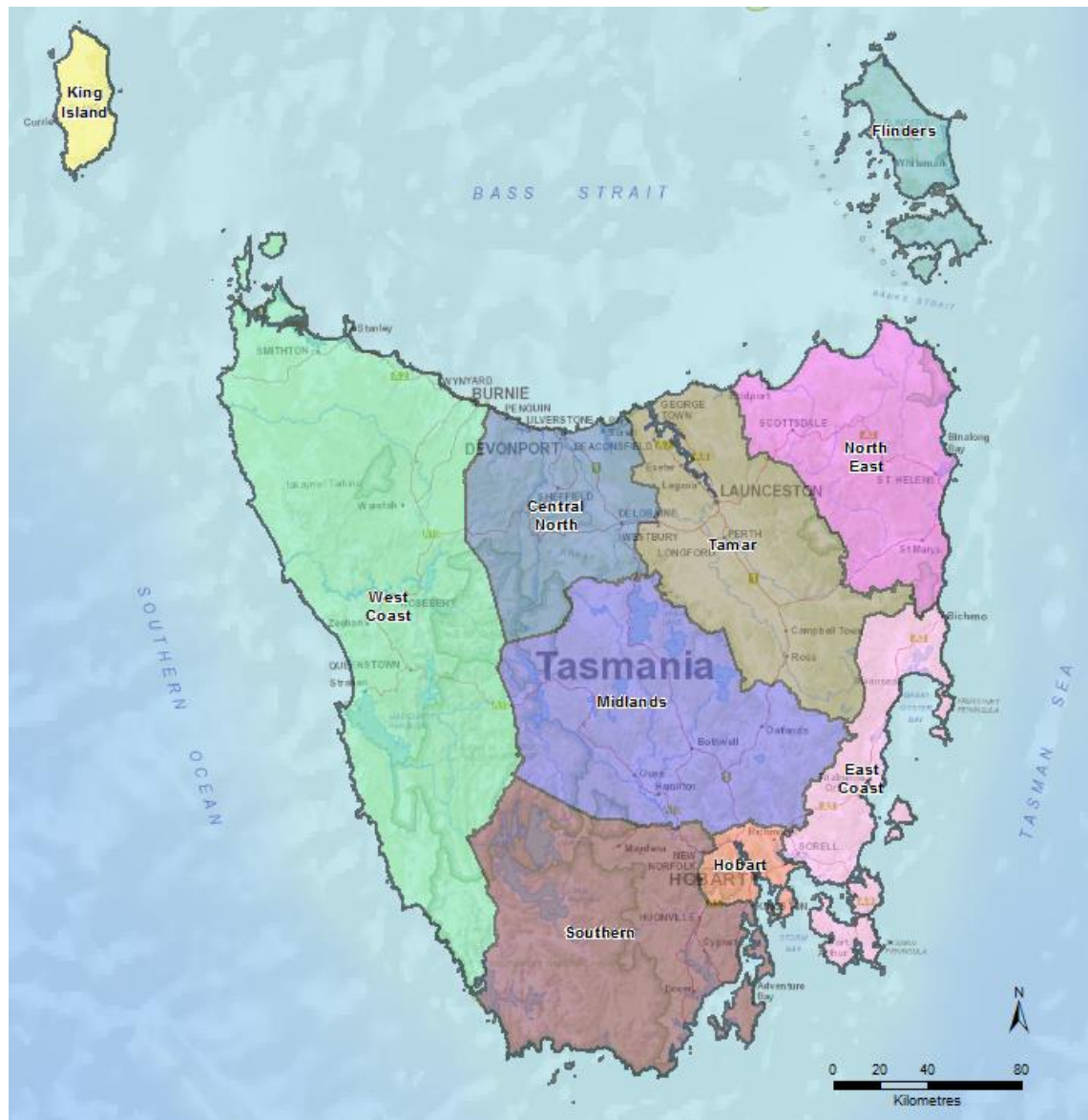
## 22. Review of Terms of Reference

These terms of reference are approved on XXXX and are to be review every three years.

## 23. Acronyms

<b>FMA</b>	Fire Management Area
<b>FMAC</b>	Fire Management Area Committee
<b>FPP</b>	Fire Protection Plan
<b>SFC</b>	State Fire Commission
<b>SFMC</b>	State Fire Management Council
<b>SFPP</b>	State Fire Protection Plan
<b>TFS</b>	Tasmania Fire Service
<b><i>the Act</i></b>	<i>Fire Service Act 1979</i>
<b>TVFMP</b>	Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy

## 24. Appendix 1 – FMA Boundaries



# Terms of Reference

## Mission Statement

To enhance the efficient and effective management of bushfire related risk in Tasmania in order to protect life, property and significant community values.

## Accountability

The functions and role of State Fire Management Council (SFMC) are contained in these Terms of Reference. SFMC recommends and reports on vegetation fire management to the Minister for Police and Emergency Management, and the State Fire Commission.

## Functions

The legislated functions of SFMC, as described in Sections 14 -21 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* are:

1. To develop a state vegetation fire management policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning.
2. To advise and report regularly to the Minister on such matters relating to the administration of the Fire Service Act, as it applies to vegetation fire management, either responding to Ministerial requests or bringing matters to the Minister's attention.
3. To provide advice to the State Fire Commission regarding the prevention and mitigation of vegetation fires.
4. To perform such other functions relating to the prevention or mitigation of vegetation fires as the Minister may direct.
5. To establish a committee for each fire management area of Tasmania, who will coordinate fire management activities within its fire management area.
6. To consider an annual fire protection plan for each fire management area and either approve, approve with modifications or reject the plan.

## Role

1. To provide strategic direction for fuel reduction.
2. To advise stakeholders in relation to policy, legislative frameworks, resourcing, responsibilities, best practice and standards in the context of bushfire related risk.
3. To encourage coordination and to the extent necessary integration of the relevant strategies of agencies involved in the management of bushfire related risk.
4. To provide oversight of fire management area committees.
5. To liaise with agencies, volunteer fire brigades and community groups for the purpose of understanding community values, volunteer needs and information exchange.

6. To promote:

- Community understanding of bushfire risk, the role of planned burns, other hazard reduction and land management methods, fire prevention techniques and community preparedness;
- Research into continuous improvement in the management of bushfire related risk; and
- Harmonious working relationships across agencies, communities and volunteers;

7. To review and report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of bushfire related risk, including:

- The state of bushfire related risk throughout Tasmania;
- The effect of planned burning and other land management techniques;
- The nature and availability of resources of agencies with responsibilities for the management of bushfire related risk;
- The efficacy of legislation pertaining to bushfire related risk; and,
- The state of community knowledge and preparedness.

8. To provide guidance and direction for the Tasmanian Fire Research Fund, which was established in 1994 to provide coordinated research on behalf of Forestry Tasmania, the Parks and Wildlife Service of DPIPW and the Tasmania Fire Service.

## **Guiding Principles**

SFMC will be strategic and outcomes focussed and will not be responsible for delivery of the outputs or operational policy. It will work with limited resources and will need to determine the best use of resources to meet its objectives. The following principles guide this process:

- Bushfires are understood, accepted and respected.
- Management of bushfire risks are a shared responsibility for the whole community.
- Decisions for risk treatment strategies are made within a risk management framework.
- Protection of lives is the highest consideration.
- Fires are managed according to the landscape objectives.
- We engage communities, to build their awareness and capacity.
- Performance is monitored, reported and improved upon.

In the course of performing their duties, members will encounter confidential information. State Fire Management Council members will respect the confidentiality of information provided in the course of all meetings.

## **Membership**

All members are appointed by the Governor.

Appointment will be made on the basis of competency, not simply as a representative of an organisation or stakeholder group, to ensure that membership reflects the best possible set of skills to enhance delivery of key functions.

An independent Chairperson is to be nominated by the Minister for Police and Emergency Management who meets the following criteria:

- independent from any organisation represented on the State Fire Management Council;
- broad leadership experience in the community with a strong commitment to improving efficient and effective management of bushfire related risk in Tasmania;
- a good communicator with experience or ability to be the public face of bushfire management and engage with the media as such;

- an ability and desire to focus SFMC on achieving its objective through inspirational leadership, well developed chairing skills and/or significant board or governance experience and a structured and rigorous approach to SFMC's functions; and
- a commitment and capacity to lead an evidence-based approach to bushfire risk management based on the principles in these Terms of Reference.

The Chair's role will be to lead public discussion of bushfire management issues, work with government, stakeholders, the community and the media to mobilise prevention efforts, and to change the culture in Tasmania to accept fire as part of living in Tasmania.

Other membership is prescribed in Section 14 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* as follows:

- the Chief Officer of the Tasmania Fire Service;
- a nominee of the Chief Officer;
- the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation;
- a nominee of the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation;
- the Director of National Parks and Wildlife;
- a nominee of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife;
- a person nominated by the Tasmanian Farmers' and Graziers' Association;
- a person nominated by the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania; and
- a person nominated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

Other than the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife, the chief executive officer of the Forestry Corporation and the Chief Officer of the Tasmania Fire Service, all members are appointed for a term of 3 years, and may be eligible for re-appointment.

The Governor may remove an appointed member of the Council from office if he is satisfied that member:

- has become incapable of carrying out their duties;
- has misconducted themselves in the performance of the duties of their office;
- has, without leave of the Council, been absent from 3 or more consecutive meetings of the Council;
- has applied to take, or takes, advantage of any law relating to bankruptcy, or has compounded or entered into an arrangement with their creditors; or
- has been convicted in this State of a crime or an offence that is punishable by imprisonment for a term of 12 months or more, or has been convicted of a crime or an offence which would, if committed in this State, be a crime or an offence so punishable, or has been convicted, whether in this State or elsewhere, of a crime or offence for which he has been sentenced to imprisonment.

Where an appointed member of the Council dies or ceases to hold office otherwise than by reason of the completion of term, the Governor may appoint a person to fill the office for the remainder of the term for which the vacating member was so appointed.

The Governor may remove from office a member of the Council appointed on the nomination of an organization if he/she is satisfied, having regard to the information supplied by the organization or the bodies that nominated the member, that the member is no longer qualified to represent that organization or those bodies on the Council and the Governor may appoint a person nominated by the relevant nominating organization or bodies to fill the office for the remainder of the term for which the member removed from office was appointed.

An appointed member may, by instrument in writing under their own hand addressed to the Governor, apply to resign from office, and they vacate that office on the acceptance of the application by the Governor.



## **Role of the Chair**

The Chair is the public advocate for State Fire Management Council.

The Chair's role is to lead public discussion of bushfire management issues, work with SFMC members, government, stakeholders, the community and the media to mobilise prevention efforts, and to change the culture in Tasmania to understand fire as part of living in Tasmania.

The Chair will have the following roles and responsibilities:

- Be the first point of contact and the 'public voice' of the State Fire Management Council, including presenting live media releases and being available in person for media events;
- Focus the State Fire Management Council on achieving its Objective;
- Report to the Minister on the activities of State Fire Management Council;
- Undertake public duties on behalf of the State Fire Management Council;
- Lead State Fire Management Council meetings;
- Undertake consultation or briefings as required on behalf of the State Fire Management Council; and
- Undertake quarterly meetings with the respective Shadow spokespersons on bushfire management upon the request of the Minister.

## **Meeting Requirements**

State Fire Management Council meetings will be undertaken as follows:

- The chairperson of the Council must convene a meeting of the Council at least once in each 3 month period
- The chairperson of the Council shall convene a meeting of the Council when required to do so by 3 or more members of the Council.
- In the absence of the chairperson from a meeting of the Council, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside at the meeting.
- Five members constitute a quorum of the Council.
- A question arising at a meeting of the Council shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting on the question and, in the event of an equality of votes, the chairperson or other member presiding at the meeting may exercise a second or casting vote and, if that right is not exercised, the matter stands adjourned to the next meeting of the Council.
- Other than the preceding points, Council may regulate its own proceedings in such manner as it thinks fit.
- A resolution on an issue may be passed without a meeting - if agreed to by five (5) members it is to be taken as having been passed by a meeting of SFMC.

## **Sub Committees**

The State Fire Management Council may establish sub committees to progress work programs and issues in relation to specific areas of expertise. These sub committees must comprise existing SFMC members and will operate proceedings as they see fit.

## **Reporting**

The State Fire Management Council will report directly to the Minister for Police and Emergency Management.

By the end of June each year, or as otherwise agreed with the Minister, SFMC will submit an annual report to the Minister on its activities for inclusion in the annual report of the State Fire Commission.

By the end of June each year, or as otherwise agreed with the Commission, SFMC will submit an annual report to the Commission on the activities of fire management area committees for inclusion in the annual report of the State Fire Commission.

### **Administration**

The State Fire Management Council will be supported by the Tasmania Fire Service.

### **Review**

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed within 2 years operation of the State Fire Management Council.



**WORKSHOP REPORT**  
**State Fire Management Council**

**Strategic Planning Workshop**

Lindisfarne Motor Yacht Club  
13 March 2018

facilitated by WLF Accounting & Advisory



## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Background Information .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>The Workshop.....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Workshop Inputs .....	4
<b>3</b>	<b>Workshop Outputs.....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Part 1 – Future Search.....	5
3.2	Part 2 – Strategic Focus Areas .....	11
3.3	Key Activities and Priorities .....	13
<b>4</b>	<b>Appendices.....</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1	Workshop Participants .....	17
4.2	Workshop Inputs .....	18
4.3	Review of Fire Service Act – For SFMC information .....	23

# 1 Background Information

The State Fire Management Council is established under the *Fire Service Act 1979*. The Act is currently being reviewed. This, in addition to good corporate governance practice, presents an opportunity for the State Fire Management Council to review its strategic objectives, consider the role that the Council currently plays or could play, and the functions it does or could perform.

To this end, State Fire Management Council members and other key stakeholders attended a Strategy Planning Workshop at Lindisfarne on 13 March 2018, facilitated by WLF Accounting and Advisory.

A list of workshop participants is in Appendix 4.1.

## 2 The Workshop

The workshop included the following sessions:

1. Introduction
2. Part 1 – Future Search
3. Part 2 – Strategic Focus Areas
  - a. Role and Purpose (Why)
  - b. Membership and Relationships (Who)
4. Part 3 – Key Activities and Priorities
5. Part 4 – Structure
  - a. Membership
6. Part 5 – Considerations
  - a. Fire Service Act Review

### 2.1 Workshop Inputs

The following materials were available to participants during the workshop.

- *Fire Service Act 1979* extracts
- State Fire Management Council aim and mission statements
- Fire management frameworks and organisations (diagram)

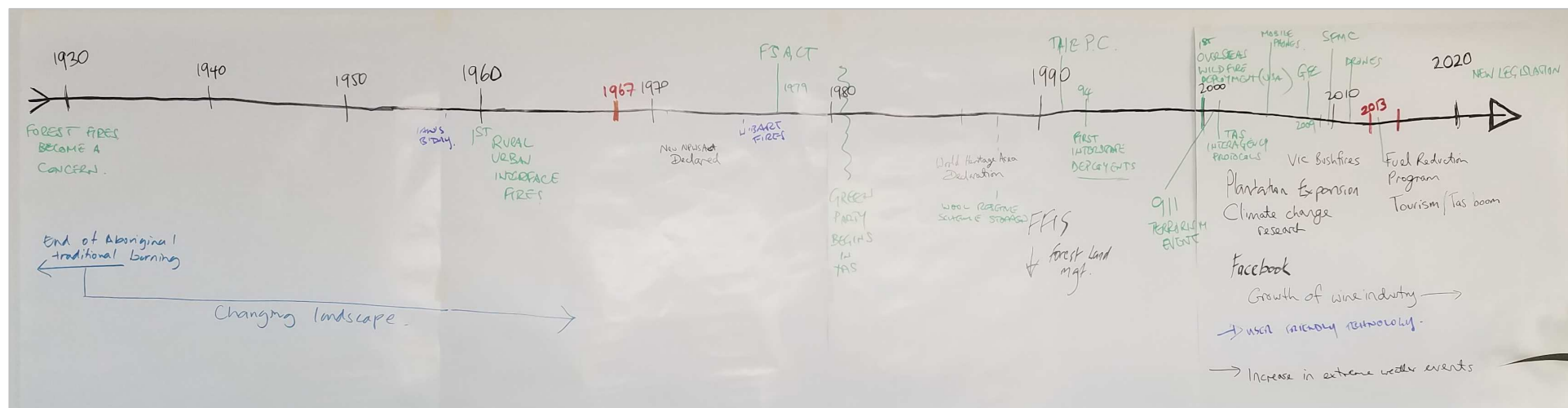
## 3 Workshop Outputs

### 3.1 Part 1 – Future Search

The “Future Search” session of the Workshop was designed to encourage participants to think more broadly than their immediate context. The aim is to identify relevant external influences as well as to enhance participants’ capacity to identify a broad range of possibilities for the future.

The Future Search session focussed on the following topics:

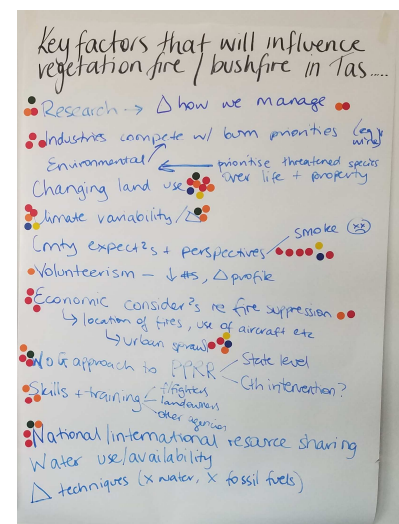
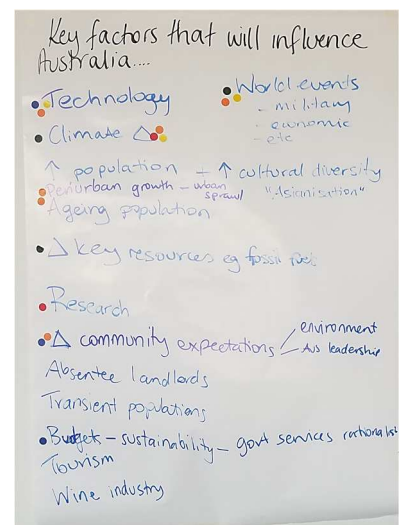
- External context
- Timeline of relevant events
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Debate: Does the State Fire Management Council have a role and purpose in the next 20 years?



### 3.1.1 External Context

The following table lists the factors that workshop participants identified as being key external influences in the next 20-50 years, both generally in Australia and specifically in relation to vegetation fire and bushfire in Tasmania. Participants voted on which factors will be the most influential.

Key factors that will influence Australia....		Key factors that will influence vegetation fire / bushfire in Tasmania....	
Votes	Factor	Votes	Factor
4	Climate change	8	Changing land use
3	Technology	8	Climate variability / climate change
3	World events – military, economic etc	7	Community expectations and perspectives – reduced acceptance of smoke
2	Changing community expectations – environment; Australian leadership	5	Research – change how we manage fire
1	Budgets – sustainability – government services rationalisation	5	Economic considerations relating to fire suppression • location of fires, use of aircraft etc
1	Peri-urban growth – urban sprawl	5	• urban sprawl
1	Ageing population	4	Whole of government approach to PPRR – State level, possible Commonwealth intervention
1	Research	4	National and international resource sharing
	Increasing population and cultural diversity	3	Industries compete with burn priorities (eg Wine)
	Absentee landlords	3	Skills and training – fire fighters, land owners, other agencies
	Transient populations	1	Volunteerism – reduced numbers, changing profile
	Changes in key resources eg fossil fuels		Environment competes with burn priorities; decisions to prioritise threatened species over life and property
	Tourism		Water use and availability
	Wine industry		Change techniques – avoid use of water, fossil fuels





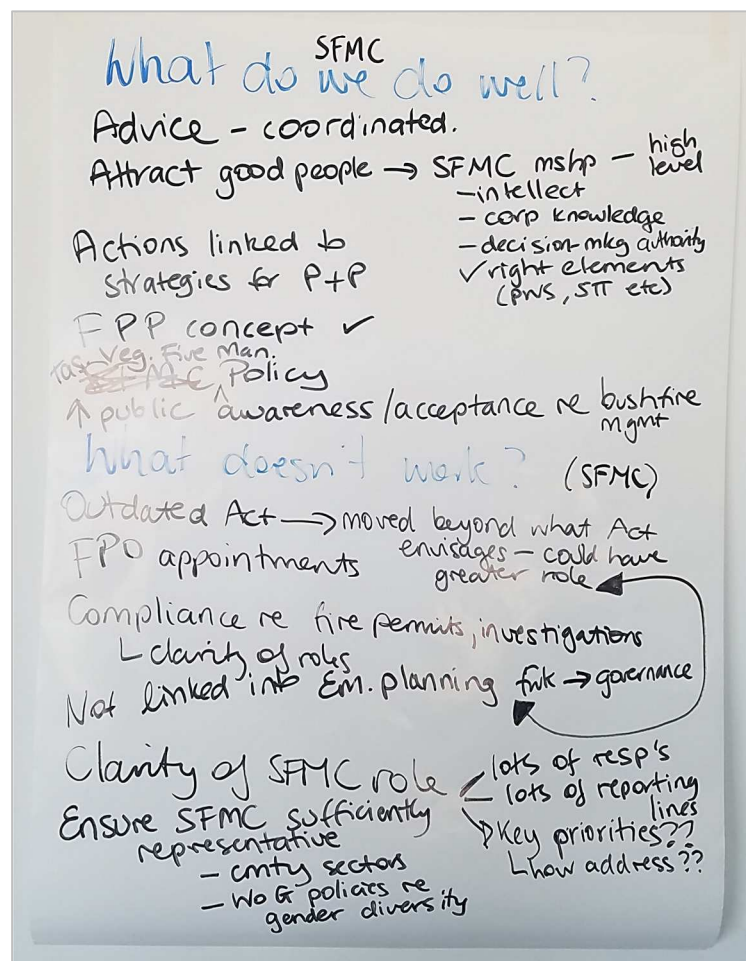
### 3.1.2 Timeline of Relevant Events

In this part of the Workshop, participants were asked to identify key events in the past that have shaped where the Council is today.

1930s	1940s	1950s	1967 1960s	1979 1970s	1980s	1990s	2009 2000s	2013 2010s	2020s
Forest fires become a concern			First rural urban interface fires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New NPWS Act declared</li> <li>FS Act</li> <li>Hobart fires</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greens party begins in Tasmania</li> <li>World Heritage Area declaration</li> <li>Wool reserve scheme stopped</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FFIS – reduced forest land management</li> <li>First interstate deployments</li> <li>The PC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First overseas wildfire deployment (USA)</li> <li>9/11 Terrorist event</li> <li>Tasmanian interagency protocols</li> <li>Mobile phones</li> <li>GFC</li> <li>Victorian bushfires</li> <li>Plantation expansion</li> <li>Climate change research</li> <li>Facebook</li> <li>State Fire Management Council</li> <li>User friendly technology</li> <li>Increase in extreme weather events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drones</li> <li>Fuel reduction Program</li> <li>Tourism / Tasmania boom</li> <li>Facebook</li> <li>Growth of wine industry</li> </ul>	<a href="#">New legislation</a>
<div> <div>←</div> <div>End of Aboriginal traditional burning</div> </div> <div> <div>→</div> <div>Changing landscape</div> </div>									

### 3.1.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

The participants were asked to identify the things that the State Fire Management Council currently does well and the areas where there are opportunities for improvement.



#### What do we do well?

- Advice – coordinated across stakeholder groups
- Attract good people to State Fire Management Council membership – high level, intellect, corporate knowledge, decision-making authority within respective organisations and right elements (Parks and Wildlife Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, etc)
- Actions linked to strategies for Prevention and Preparation
- Concept of Fire Protection Plans is good
- Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy
- Increasing public awareness and acceptance in relation to bushfire management

#### What doesn't work?

- Outdated Act – Council has moved beyond what the Act envisages – could have greater role (see emergency planning framework below)
- Fire Permit Officer appointments
- Compliance in relation to fire permits, investigations – lack of clarity of roles
- Not linked into emergency planning framework – governance issues
- Clarity of State Fire Management Council role
  - lots of responsibilities
  - lots of reporting lines
  - uncertainty as to our key priorities and how to address them
- Ensure State Fire Management Council is sufficiently representative –
  - community sectors
  - whole of government policies re gender diversity

### 3.1.4 Debate: Does the State Fire Management Council Have a Role and Purpose in the Next 20 Years?

In this session, participants on each table were asked to divide into two groups and argue either the case "For" or "Against" the proposition that the State Fire Management Council has a role and a purpose in the next 20 years.

#### The State Fire Management Council has a role and purpose in the next 20 years

##### Arguments For –

###### Role

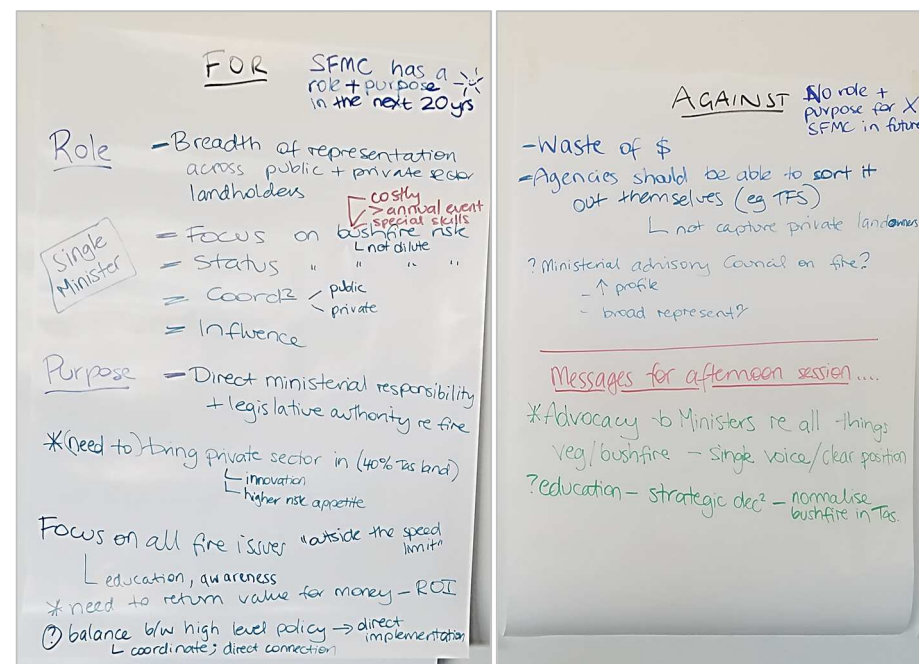
- Breadth of representation across public and private sector landholders
- Single Minister
- Undiluted focus on bushfire risk
  - Occurs more than annually
  - Costly
  - Special skills required
- Status of bushfire risk
- Coordination – public and private sectors
- Influence

###### Purpose

- Direct ministerial responsibility and legislative authority in relation to fire
- (Need to) Bring in private sector – 40% of Tasmanian land
  - Innovation
  - Higher risk appetite
- Focus on all fire issues "outside the speed limit"
  - education, awareness
- Need to return value for money – return on investment
- Uncertain about balance between high level policy and direct implementation
  - coordinate; direct connection

##### Arguments Against

- Waste of money?
- Agencies should be able to sort it out themselves (eg TFS)
  - But this does not capture private landowners?
- Ministerial advisory council on fire instead?
  - Increase profile
  - Broad representation



Finally, the participants who were attending only for the Future Search (morning) segment were asked if they had any key messages for the rest of the Workshop. Those messages were:

Advocacy to Ministers about all things bushfire / vegetation fire – single voice / clear position
Consider education – strategic decision – normalise bushfire in Tasmania

## 3.2 Part 2 – Strategic Focus Areas

In the following two segments, the participants discussed the following topics:

1. “Why?” – what is the role and purpose of the State Fire Management Council?
2. “Who?” – whom should the State Fire Management Council include? With whom does it have its key relationships?

### 3.2.1 Why? – Role and Purpose

Participants identified the following roles and purposes of the State Fire Management Council.

What is the role and purpose of the State Fire Management Council?
Minimising harm
Policy and strategy for management of vegetation fire risk
Protection of community, environment
Single voice for community
Minimising cost
Impact
Coordination
Influence advocacy
Risk & values
Policy advice strategy coordination
Shared purpose
Implementation – instruments to ensure

The discussions of the workshop provided a strong sense that there is a very clear role for the SFMC and the strength is the inter-agency, broad representation of the Council to facilitate coordinated approaches, strategies, advocacy, research, and community development.

Workshop participants also identified that defining bushfire was important for the role and purpose of the SFMC and it was noted that ‘uncontrolled’ was the key word.

### 3.2.2 Who? – Membership and Key Relationships

The following discussion occurred in relation to membership and key relationships for the Council.

Who/what is central to the functions of the State Fire Management Council?
Government
Land managers
Everyone? – recognise & consult stakeholders
Broad remit
Strategic choices over time
Role of TFS
Range of influence
Urban interface
Key relationships



Figure 1. Stakeholders who are relevant to the functions of the Council.

## 3.3 Key Activities and Priorities

### 3.3.1 Identifying Priority Areas

Workshop participants were asked to list key activities of the State Fire Management Council. These activities were then grouped according to themes or priority areas. The themes and activities identified are set out in the following table. Participants were also asked to consider whether the Council should *stop* doing any of the activities however none were identified.

Theme / Priority Area	Activities
<b>Overall</b>	Leadership Can-do Confidence
<b>Research and Innovation</b>	Oversee research priorities and the adoption of relevant findings / recommendations – linkages to Tas bushfire research fund Coordinate research (research utilisation)
<b>Policy</b> • emerging / current issues • leadership • informed by research – adoption	Identify emerging issues and drive policy development or reform Advice and awareness of peri-urban interface fire risk (produce policy) Coordination industry approach to policy development (leadership) Invite key stakeholders to SFMC meetings to present on key issues
<b>Capacity and Awareness</b>	Build capacity of land managers (tools, education, field days, app for decision – making) Awareness raising for private land managers Community education programs Maintain awareness of agency / community capability – response; training and mitigation
<b>Collaboration, Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement</b>	Review current projects to determine priorities and alignment with SFMC aim & mission Drive & maintain collaboration stakeholder Coordination of agency programs
<b>FMACs and Planning</b>	Review the function and structure of FMAC's
<b>Other</b>	
<b>Review of Fire Service Act</b>	Lead the conversation into the Fire Service Act review Comment on fire service Act review

### 3.3.2 Strategic Activities and Timeframes

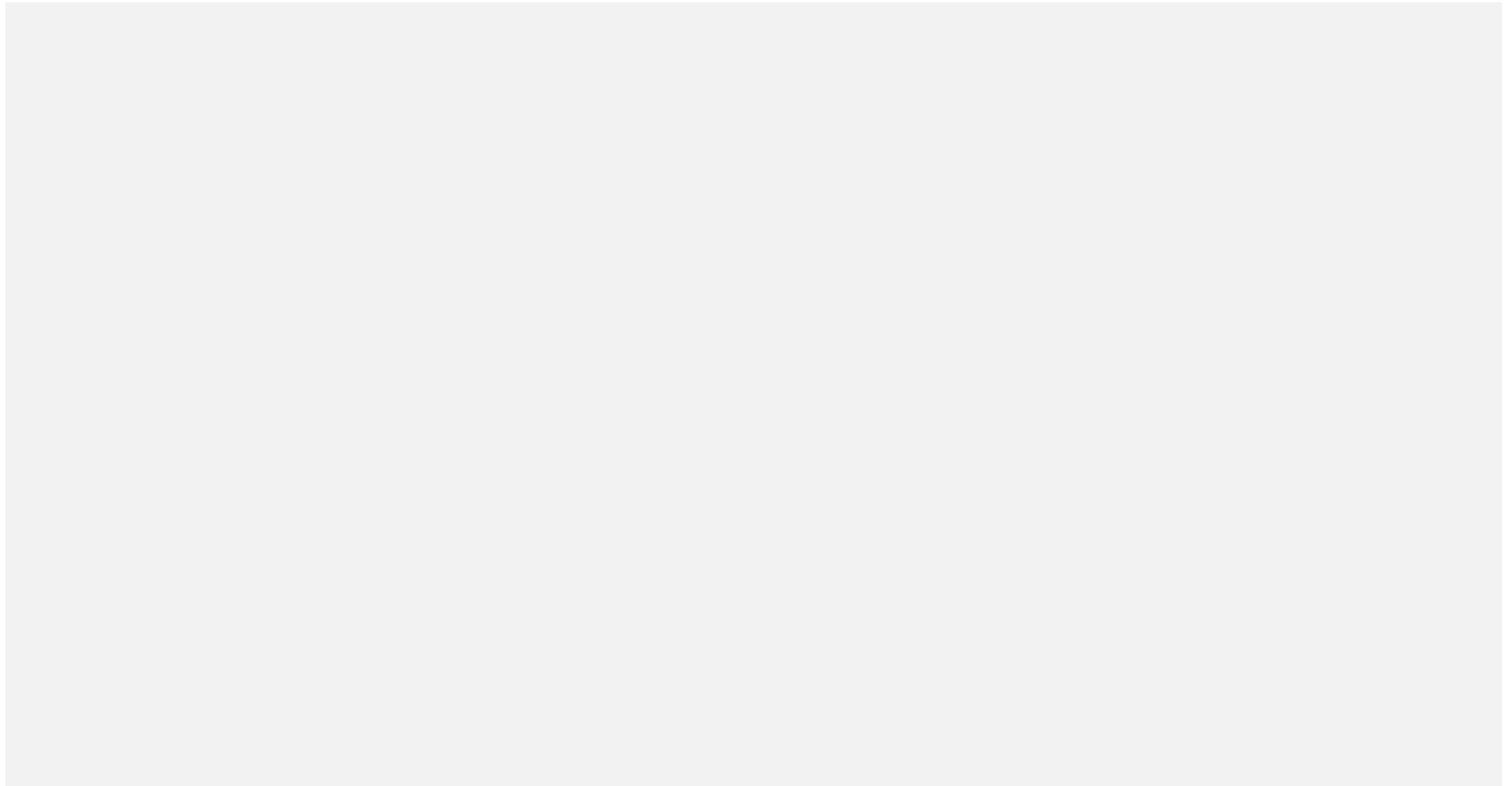
The participants were asked to identify and vote on priority actions in relation to each of the identified themes and the timeframes for their completion.

Themes	Priority Actions		
	Votes	Description	By when?
Research and Innovation	6	Establish research committee	2018 (TORS)
		Prepare draft prospectus of research priorities	2018 / 2019
		Understand research currently underway relevant to SFMC business	June 2018
		Focus on outcomes for research priorities – practical research	2018
		Sponsor projects that will deliver an immediate benefit (low hanging fruit)	
Policy	6	Enshrine SFMC role in fire services Act review	Now
	1	Influence strategic directions of FSA review	Yesterday!
	1	Develop rural / urban interface fire management policy	2018
	4	Identify policy priorities / papers	Dec 2018
		Reconsider the use of native vegetation for beautification (local government)	
		Access to water supplies for fire-fighting and fuel reduction	
		Roadside verge management	
Capacity and Awareness	4	Monitor progress and success of bushfire mitigation activities (including forward planning)	Ongoing – before and after each burn season
	3	Identify capacity gaps, who may be best to fill them and how / what role we have to facilitate this	At least annually?
		Continue to encourage additional local burning	
	1	Education – extension – support	
		Continue strategy	
Collaboration, Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement	2	Invite deputations by key industry people / stakeholders to each meeting as a standing agenda item – two-way communication	Schedule of guests by next meeting
		Establish a governance framework	2018
	1	Establish who are the State Fire Management Council's key stakeholders	2018
	4	Communication / stakeholder engagement plan (media, social media, stakeholders etc.)	



Themes	Priority Actions		
	Votes	Description	By when?
FMACs and Planning	6	Review FMAC composition and purpose (SWOT) to identify opportunities for improvement / reform	2019
		Monitor and provide input into TWWHA bushfire mitigation projects (BRAM; Model of fire cover; fire plan)	2018 – 2020
	1	L.U.P. (Land use planning) captures bushfire risk mitigation : design	
	2	Influence Tasmanian planning commission (local area plans) and other mechanisms that determine future bushfire risk	End 2018
	2	Identify relevant legislation that impacts State Fire Management Council	

## 4 Appendices



## 4.1 Workshop Participants

Name	Title
<b>Full day</b>	
Ian Sauer	Chair, State Fire Management Council
Chris Arnol	Chief Officer, Tasmania Fire Service
Jeremy Smith	Deputy Chief Officer, Tasmania Fire Service
Steve Whiteley	CEO, Sustainable Timber Tasmania
Suzette Weeding	General Manager Land Management, Sustainable Timber Tasmania
Jason Jacobi	General Manager, Parks and Wildlife
Mark Bryce	Director Operations, Parks and Wildlife
Melanie Kelly	Member, State Fire Management Council
John Atkinson	xx
Debra Pope	Executive Officer, State Fire Management Council
<b>Future Search (morning) only</b>	
Felicity Novy	Project Manager, Fire Service Act Review, TFS
Louise Mendel	A/Principal Staff Officer, Office of the Chief Officer, TFS
Chris Collins	xx
Terry Edwards	xx
<b>Apologies</b>	
Donna Adams	Deputy Secretary, Department of Police Fire & Emergency Management
Sandra Whight	Director Community Fire Safety, Tasmania Fire Service

## 4.2 Workshop Inputs

The following information was displayed on the walls and/or available on the tables for participants to refer to during the workshop.

### 4.2.1 State Fire Management Council Aim and Mission Statements

<b>Aim</b>	"To deliver strategic, timely advice to the Minister and SFC on a range of policy issues relating to the management of vegetation fire in Tasmania."
<b>Mission Statement</b>	"To enhance the efficient management of bushfire related risk in Tasmania in order to protect life, property and significant community values".

### 4.2.2 Fire management frameworks and relevant organisations (diagram) – part of the SFMC context



#### 4.2.3 Fire Service Act 1979 extracts

##### 14. State Fire Management Council

- (1) A State Fire Management Council is established.
- (2) The Council consists of –
  - (a) a person nominated by the Minister; and
  - (b) the Chief Officer; and
  - (c) the person for the time being holding, in the Fire Service, an office or position determined by the Chief Officer; and
  - (d) the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation; and
  - (e) a person nominated by the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation; and
  - (f) the Director of National Parks and Wildlife; and
  - (g) a person nominated by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife; and
  - (h) a person nominated by the Tasmanian Farmers' and Graziers' Association; and
  - (i) a person nominated by the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania; and
  - (j) a person nominated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania.
- (3) The member of the Council referred to in subsection (2)(a) is chairperson of the Council.
- (4) The members of the Council referred to in paragraphs (a), (e), (g), (h), (i) and (j) of subsection (2) are appointed by the Governor.
- (5) The Minister may require a body referred to in paragraph (h), (i) or (j) of subsection (2) to submit a list of names within a specified period, being a period of not less than 30 days.
- (6) If a body referred to in paragraph (h), (i) or (j) of subsection (2) fails to comply with subsection (5), the Minister may nominate a person for the purposes of that paragraph.
- (7) If a body referred to in paragraph (h), (i) or (j) of subsection (2) changes its name, the Governor may, by order, amend that paragraph by substituting the body's new name.
- (8) If a body referred to in paragraph (h), (i) or (j) of subsection (2) ceases to exist, the Governor may, by order, amend that paragraph by substituting the name of a body which the Governor is satisfied substantially represents the interests represented by the first-mentioned body.
- (9) Schedule 5 has effect with respect to the membership and meetings of the Council.

## 15. Functions of Council

- (1) The Council has the following functions:
  - (a) to develop a State vegetation fire management policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning;
  - (b) to advise and report regularly to the Minister on such matters relating to the administration of this Act, as it applies to vegetation fire management, as are referred to it by the Minister and on such matters concerning vegetation fire management as, in the opinion of the Council, should be brought to the attention of the Minister;
  - (c) to advise the Commission on such matters relating to the prevention and mitigation of vegetation fires as are referred to it by the Commission or land managers and on such other matters as, in the opinion of the Council, should be brought to the attention of the Commission;
  - (d) to perform such other functions relating to the prevention or mitigation of vegetation fires as the Minister may direct;
  - (e) to provide an annual report to the Minister on its activities, for inclusion in the annual report of the Commission prepared under section 107G ;
  - (f) to provide an annual report to the Commission on the activities of the Fire Management Area Committees, for inclusion in the annual report of the Commission prepared under section 107G.
- (2) The Council is to consider each fire protection plan submitted to it under section 20(1)(c) and may –
  - (a) approve the plan as submitted; or
  - (b) approve the plan subject to such modifications as it thinks fit; or
  - (c) reject the plan and instruct the Committee to recast the plan.
- (3) The Council is to perform its functions in respect of Wellington Park in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which Wellington Park is set aside under the Wellington Park Act 1993 and with any management plan in force in respect of Wellington Park.
- (4) The Council is to perform its functions in respect of any reserved land, as defined in the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which the reserved land is set aside under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* and with any management plan in force in respect of the reserved land.

## 17. Fire Management Areas

- (1) The Council, by notice published in the Gazette, may declare any area of the State to be a Fire Management Area.
- (2) The Council, by the notice, may –
  - (a) assign a name to the Fire Management Area; and
  - (b) publish a map of the Fire Management Area.
- (3) The boundaries of Fire Management Areas need not coincide with the boundaries of municipal areas.
- (4) A notice under subsection (1) is not a statutory rule within the meaning of the *Rules Publication Act 1953*.

## **18. Fire Management Area Committees**

- (1) The Council must establish a committee, called a Fire Management Area Committee, in respect of each Fire Management Area to be responsible for providing effective fire management in that area.
- (2) A Committee is to consist of –
  - (a) the Chief Officer or an officer of the Fire Service nominated by the Chief Officer; and
  - (b) a representative of each local council whose municipal area lies wholly or partly within the Fire Management Area or a person jointly nominated by those local councils; and
  - (c) if the Fire Management Area contains or is adjacent to State forest – a person nominated by the chief executive officer of the Forestry corporation; and
  - (d) if the Fire Management Area contains or is adjacent to any reserved land within the meaning of the Nature Conservation Act 2002 – a person nominated by the Secretary of the responsible Department in relation to the National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002 ; and
  - (e) if the Fire Management Area includes any part of Wellington Park – a person nominated by the Wellington Park Management Trust; and
  - (f) a person jointly nominated by the brigade chiefs of the brigades wholly or partly within the Fire Management Area.
- (3) The Council may appoint additional members to a Committee on the recommendation of that Committee.
- (4) A member elected by the members and approved by the Council is chairperson.
- (5) A Committee is to meet at least twice a year.
- (6) A meeting of a Committee may be convened by the chairperson or by any 2 members.
- (7) The Council may direct a Committee to meet at a particular place and the Committee must comply with that direction.
- (8) A Committee must keep accurate minutes of its meetings.
- (9) Except as provided in this section, a Committee may regulate its own procedure.

## **20. Functions and powers of Fire Management Area Committees**

- (1) A Committee has the following functions:
  - (a) to co-ordinate fire management activities within its Fire Management Area, including –
    - (i) community education and information; and
    - (ii) fuel management;
  - (b) to identify and assess community bushfire risks in its Fire Management Area and to prioritise strategic works in response to those risks;
  - (c) to submit to the Council, on or before 30 September of each year, a fire protection plan for its Fire Management Area for the next 12 months commencing on 1 October;
  - (d) to ensure that its fire protection plan is consistent with –

- (i) the State fire protection plan developed pursuant to section 8(1)(d); and
  - (ii) the State vegetation fire management policy developed pursuant to section 15(1)(a); and
  - (iii) such instructions or guidelines as the Council may from time to time issue to the Committee regarding the fire protection plan;
  - (e) to advise the Council on such matters relating to fire management and the Committee's other functions as the Council may refer to the Committee;
  - (f) to advise the Council on such matters concerning fire management as, in the opinion of the Committee, should be brought to the Council's attention;
  - (g) to perform such other functions relating to the prevention or mitigation of vegetation fires as the Council may direct.
- (2) A Committee has power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done in connection with the performance of its functions.
- (3) A Committee is to perform its functions in respect of Wellington Park in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which Wellington Park is set aside under the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and with any management plan in force in respect of Wellington Park.
- (4) A Committee is to perform its functions in respect of any reserved land, as defined in the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which the reserved land is set aside under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* and with any management plan in force in respect of the reserved land.
- (5) In this section –  
*fire protection plan* means a plan that describes the prevention, preparation, response and recovery arrangements for one or more hazards.

## **21. Directions in relation to Fire Management Areas**

- (1) The Commission may give directions in writing to the Council in respect of the performance of the Council's functions in relation to the management of Fire Management Areas.
- (2) The Council is to comply with directions given by the Commission under subsection (1).
- (3) The Council may give directions in writing to a Committee in respect of the performance of the Committee's functions in relation to the management of Fire Management Areas.
- (4) The Committee is to comply with directions given by the Council under subsection (3).



## 4.3 Review of Fire Service Act – For SFMC information

The workshop participants identified the following issues for consideration in the Council's submission to the review of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

Review of the Fire Service Act 1979 – issues to be raised by the State Fire Management Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Permit Officers – remove State Fire Management Council from appointment process</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear role</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powers</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ remove duplications – Dep Sec DPIPWE vs. Director PWS</li> <li>◦ maintain seniority requirements</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name of council – link to bushfire risk</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationship with SEMC &amp; SFC               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Clear reporting requirement/governance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independence – maintain clear independence from other government structures</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency powers</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Role</li> <li>◦ Reporting lines – governance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibilities of local government               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Fire abatement – owners</li> <li>◦ Reserve management and planning – occupier</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resourcing of SFMC</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel Reduction Unit / community protection               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Clarity of FMAC planning roles and functions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link with planning scheme</li> </ul>



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Move Forward



# TASMANIAN VEGETATION FIRE MANAGEMENT POLICY **2017**

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[www.sfmc.tas.gov.au](http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au)

**This policy supersedes the State  
Vegetation Fire Management  
Policy 2012 V4.2**

# Contents

Message from the State Fire Management Council Chairperson.....	4
<i>Acknowledgment of Country</i> .....	5
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2. Authorising Environment.....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 When does the Policy apply?.....	7
<b>3. Key Expressions in this Policy.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. Policy .....</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1 Principles .....	9
4.2 Strategies .....	9
4.3 Responsibility.....	10
<b>5. Review Period .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6. Endorsement.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>7. Definitions .....</b>	<b>12</b>
APPENDIX A	
<b>8. Guide to Implementation .....</b>	<b>15</b>
8.1 Relationship between risk management frameworks and this Policy.....	15
8.2 Identifying Context and Purpose .....	16
8.3 Identifying “The Activity” .....	16
8.4 Stakeholder Identification and Engagement.....	17
8.5 Identifying the Most Relevant Principles and Strategies for the Activity .....	19
8.6 Translating the Principles and Strategies into Actions and Outcomes.....	23
APPENDIX B	
<b>9. Other Relevant Legislation.....</b>	<b>28</b>
APPENDIX C	
<b>10. References .....</b>	<b>31</b>

## Message from the State Fire Management Council Chairperson

The State Fire Management Council (SFMC) has a legislative function to develop a State vegetation fire management policy.

This policy aims to articulate the agreed principles and strategies that will be used by all Tasmanian's to enable the safe and effective conduct of vegetation fire management activities.

The latest review of the policy has been developed with extensive input from a large range of stakeholders. SFMC adopted the position that 'if as a group we have a common understanding of principles, language, each other's needs and processes, we immediately create efficiencies and promote communication and collaboration'. It is this philosophy that we have attempted to embed into this new version of the policy.

Bushfire causes significant damage to our people, communities, social and cultural values, industries, environment and infrastructure. This damage is exacerbated by climate change, and will increase if we don't adopt consistent approaches to vegetation fire management.

Fire will always be a part of the Tasmanian landscape, be it bushfire, cultural management or planned fuel reduction burning. This policy has a role to guide vegetation fire management in Tasmania, not to remove fire from the landscape. The policy promotes the use of a range of tools to manage the negative impacts from fire to tolerable levels, and to work together in a consistent way.

SFMC is confident that this policy will go a long way in supporting Tasmanian's understanding of the role of fire in the landscape, and in managing their bushfire risk.



Ian Sauer

**Chairperson, State Fire Management Council**

## Acknowledgment of Country

The SFMC acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community, past and present, as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land.

Prior to European colonisation, Aboriginal people actively used fire as a sophisticated tool to continually manage and modify the landscape. The detailed knowledge of the patterns of burning and fire regimes applied by Aboriginal people is incomplete, however, there is good evidence that the patterns of vegetation observed in the landscape today are strongly influenced by past Aboriginal burning.

The broad patterns of vegetation in the Tasmanian landscape shaped by Aboriginal fire regimes over thousands of years are still significant to Aboriginal people. The results of Aboriginal vegetation fire management can still be seen today in the heathy coastal plains of the West Coast and the open grasslands of the Midlands.

## 1. Introduction

Bushfire has been a constant and natural phenomenon in Australia for many thousands of years. South-eastern Australia, including Tasmania, is particularly prone to bushfire and is regarded as one of the most bushfire-affected regions in the world. Although fire forms an important part of the environment and remains essential for biodiversity and renewal; its effects can be catastrophic if uncontrolled.

Bushfire remains the greatest aggregated natural hazard risk to Tasmania, a risk that is increasing under a changing climate.

This version of the 'Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy' has involved extensive consultation and participation by a wide range of stakeholders. It is seen as the first step in developing a contemporary framework for vegetation fire management in Tasmania.

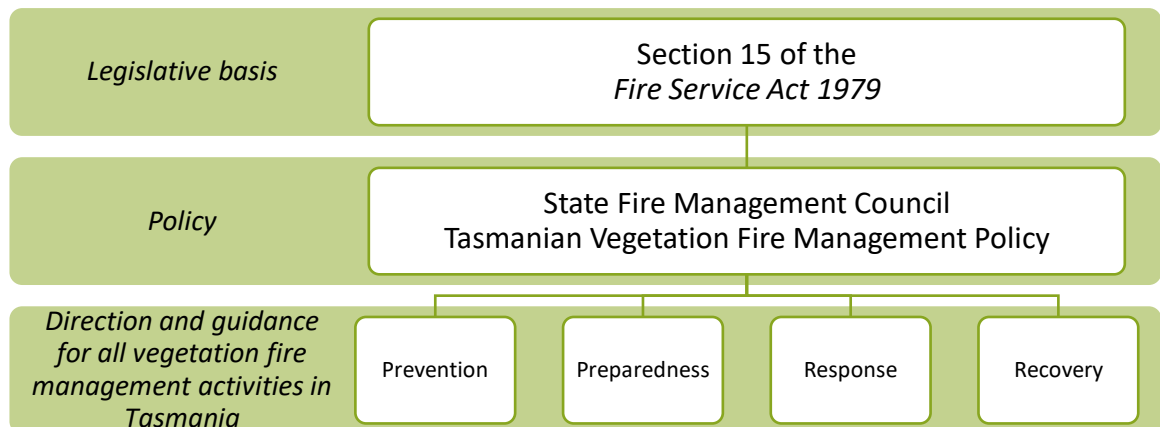
The SFMC is established under Section 14 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (Tasmania). It is an independent body that has a responsibility to provide advice to the Minister and the State Fire Commission about vegetation fire management across Tasmania, particularly in the areas of bushfire prevention and mitigation. A principal function of the SFMC is to develop a State vegetation fire management policy. The State Vegetation Fire Management Policy was first approved in 2009. For this release the Policy has been renamed the Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy.



## 2. Authorising Environment

This policy is prepared pursuant to the *Fire Service Act 1979* (see *Figure 1*).

*Figure 1 Authorising environment*



### 2.1 When does the Policy apply?

Each Fire Management Area Committee will ensure, in accordance with s. 20(1)(d)(ii) of the *Fire Service Act 1979*, that its Fire Protection Plan is consistent with this Policy.

The Tasmania Fire Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service, Municipal Councils represented by the Local Government Association of Tasmania, and forestry companies represented by the Forestry Industries Association of Tasmania agree to apply this Policy, including its Principles and Strategies, to all vegetation fire management activities that they undertake.

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association endorses this Policy as a best practice guideline that should be applied by all primary producers undertaking fire management activities.

The SFMC encourages all Tasmanian organisations and individuals to apply the guidance in this Policy when conducting vegetation fire management activities.

### 3. Key Expressions in this Policy

To promote the use of common terminology, the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authority Council (AFAC) Bushfire Glossary will be used as reference in this Policy (see Section 7).

The definition of **'bushfire'** is:

*'Unplanned vegetation fire. A generic term which includes grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires both with and without a suppression objective.'*

The definition of **'bushfire management'** is:

*'All those activities directed to prevention, detection, damage mitigation and suppression of bushfires. Includes bushfire legislation, policy, administration, law enforcement, community education, training of firefighters, planning, communications systems, equipment research, and the multitude of field operations undertaken by land managers and emergency services personnel relating to bushfire control'.*

The definition of **'fuel management'** is:

*'Modification of fuels by prescribed burning, or other means.'*

The definition of **'vegetation fire'** is:

*'All fire in vegetation, both planned and unplanned. Unplanned vegetation fire is more specifically known as bushfire.'*

The definition of **'vegetation fire management activity'** is:

*All activities that relate to the control, use and management of vegetation. Includes for agriculture/silvicultural purposes, cultural practice, weed management, bushfire mitigation, ecological management and bushfire suppression. It includes legislation, policy, procedure, planning and operational activities.*

## 4. Policy

The purpose of the Policy is to enable the safe and effective conduct of vegetation fire management activities on public and private land across Tasmania to achieve a range of community, cultural, agricultural, silvicultural and environmental objectives.

This Policy outlines the Principles and Strategies by which vegetation fire management will occur in Tasmania. Guidance on how to apply the Principles and Strategies is in *Appendix A*.

The Principles and Strategies have been developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and reflect our shared understanding and objectives for vegetation fire management in Tasmania.

### 4.1 Principles

**All stakeholders acknowledge and accept that:**

- P-1** Bushfire occurs and will continue to occur in the Tasmanian landscape.
- P-2** Bushfire can be a threat, not only to people and response agencies, but also to the landscape, Aboriginal and other Tasmanian cultural heritage and the Tasmanian economy.
- P-3** A risk management approach will be applied to vegetation fire management in Tasmania.
- P-4** The paramount priority is to protect human life.
- P-5** Other priorities reflect identified community values including the protection of assets, infrastructure, cultural, historical, ecological and environmental values. The order of priority for these other values will be determined in each case using a risk-based approach.
- P-6** Bushfire does not recognise tenure. Consequently, all land owners, occupiers and managers have a responsibility to work cooperatively to manage risk.
- P-7** Fire can be used as an effective tool for vegetation fire management, risk mitigation, ecological management, silvicultural burning and as part of Aboriginal cultural practices.

### 4.2 Strategies

**All stakeholders agree that:**

- S-1** Bushfire risk will be assessed and, where appropriate, managed by actions to reduce the risk of bushfire occurring and/or to reduce the intensity and impact of bushfires when they do occur.
- S-2** In a bushfire emergency, all stakeholders will unite in their efforts to protect human life and to protect other values.

**Vegetation fire management activities will:**

- S-3** Aim to achieve outcomes identified by a science-based, risk management approach.
- S-4** Apply across tenures and jurisdictions and will take a landscape approach.

**Organisations conducting vegetation fire management activities will:**

- S-5** Share responsibility by involving stakeholders in planning and decision-making processes.
- S-6** Ensure that communities play an active role in fuel management and are engaged, educated, and supported to contribute to effective bushfire management activities.
- S-7** Actively engage with and consider the values of affected stakeholders.

**Decisions about vegetation fire management will:**

- S-8** Be process-based and undertaken in good faith.
- S-9** Apply a risk-based approach in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management Principles and Guidelines, National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) and Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG).
- S-10** Be informed by evidence, research and contemporary practices to promote adaptability and continuous improvement.
- S-11** Seek to preserve and/or strike a balance between identified community values.

**All stakeholders in vegetation fire management activities will:**

- S-12** Collaborate and cooperate, including by appropriate sharing of information and resources.
- S-13** Act in good faith.

### **4.3 Responsibility**

- R-1** The organisation conducting a vegetation fire management activity is responsible for ensuring that the Principles and Strategies are applied and for determining how to apply the Principles and Strategies in the context of the activity.

## 5. Review Period

This Policy will be reviewed every five years.

## 6. Endorsement

This Policy has been endorsed by the Members of the State Fire Management Council, on behalf of their respective organisations, and by the State Fire Commission and noted by the State Emergency Management Committee, for a term of five years.

### State Fire Management Council



Ian Sauer  
Chairperson



Chris Arnol  
Chief Officer, Tasmania Fire Service



John Whittington  
Director of National Parks and Wildlife



Katy Edwards  
Forest Industries Association of  
Tasmania nominee



Steve Whiteley  
Chief Executive Officer, Sustainable  
Timber Tasmania



John Atkinson  
Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers  
Association nominee



Katrena Stephenson  
Chief Executive Officer, Local  
Government Association of Tasmania

### This policy has been endorsed by the State Fire Commission



Rod Sweetnam  
Chairperson

### This policy has been noted by the State Emergency Management Committee



Darren Hine  
Chairperson

**This policy has been noted by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management on  
19 January 2018**

## 7. Definitions

To promote the use of common terminology, the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authority Council (AFAC) Bushfire Glossary will be used as reference in this policy.

Term	Definition
<b>Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC)</b>	The peak representative body for fire, emergency services and land management agencies in the Australasian region. It develops and promotes national standards for the fire industry.
<b>Assets</b>	Anything valued by people which includes houses, crops, forests, and in many cases, the environment.
<b>Bushfire</b>	Unplanned vegetation fire. A generic term which includes, grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires both with and without a suppression objective.
<b>Bushfire management</b>	All those activities directed to prevention, detection, damage mitigation and suppression of bushfires. Includes relevant legislation, policy, administration, law enforcement, community education, training of firefighters, planning, communications systems, equipment, research, and the multitude of field operations undertaken by land managers and emergency services personnel relating to bushfire control.
<b>Bushfire risk</b>	Processes, occurrences or actions that increase the likelihood of fires occurring.
<b>Climate</b>	The atmospheric conditions of a place over an extended period of time.
<b>Control</b>	The overall direction of response activities in an emergency situation. Authority for control is established in legislation or in an emergency response plan, and carries with it the responsibility for tasking and coordinating other response personnel in accordance with the needs of the situation. Control relates to situations and operates horizontally across agencies.
<b>Detection</b>	The discovery of a fire. Individuals, fire towers, reconnaissance aircraft and automatic devices may be used, either alone or in combination.
<b>Ecological burning</b>	A form of prescribed burning. Treatment with fire of vegetation in nominated areas to achieve specified ecological objectives.
<b>Fire management</b>	All activities associated with the management of fire prone land, including the use of fire or other means to meet land management goals and objectives.
<b>Fire suppression</b>	The activities connected with restricting the spread of a fire following its detection and before making it safe.
<b>Fire threat</b>	The impact a fire will have on a community.

Term	Definition
<b>Fuel</b>	Any material such as grass, leaf litter and live vegetation which can be ignited and sustains a fire. Fuel is usually measured in tonnes per hectare.
<b>Fuel management</b>	Modification of fuels by prescribed burning, or other means.
<b>Fuel modification</b>	Manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control (e.g., lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning).
<b>Fuel reduction</b>	Manipulation, including combustion, or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or lessen potential damage and resistance to control.
<b>Fuel reduction burning</b>	The planned application of fire to reduce hazardous fuel quantities; undertaken in prescribed environmental conditions within prescribed boundaries.
<b>Hazard</b>	A source of potential harm or a situation with potential to cause loss.
<b>Legislation</b>	A set of laws made by a State, Territory or Federal Government; includes acts and regulations.
<b>National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG)</b>	A contextualised, emergency-related risk assessment method to enable consistent and rigorous emergency-related risk assessments, increase the quality and comparability of risk assessments and improve the national evidence base on emergency-related risks. The outputs from NERAG risk assessments are intended to improve decision making when allocating scarce resources for risk treatment and emergency prevention and preparedness measures.
<b>Planning</b>	The collective and collaborative efforts by which agreements are reached and documented between people and organisations to meet their communities' vegetation fire management needs. It is a sequence of steps which details how the process will take place.
<b>Preparation</b>	See preparedness
<b>Preparedness</b>	All activities undertaken in advance of the occurrence of an incident to decrease the impact, extent and severity of the incident and to ensure more effective response activities.
<b>Prescribed burn</b>	A fire utilised for Prescribed burning.
<b>Prescribed burning</b>	The controlled application of fire under specified environmental conditions to a predetermined area and at the time, intensity, and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives. Also known as planned burning.
<b>Prevention</b>	All activities concerned with minimising the occurrence of incidents, particularly those of human origin.

Term	Definition
<b>Recovery</b>	The coordinated process of supporting emergency affected communities in reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing.
<b>Response</b>	Actions taken in anticipation of, during, and immediately after an incident to ensure that its effects are minimised, and that people affected are given immediate relief and support.
<b>Risk</b>	The exposure to the possibility of such things as economic or financial loss or gain, physical damage, injury or delay, as a consequence of pursuing a particular course of action. The concept of risk has two elements, i.e. the likelihood of something happening and the consequences if it happens. (AS4360).
<b>State Fire Commission (SFC)</b>	The State Fire Commission is the peak governing and policy group for the Tasmania Fire Service.
<b>State Fire Management Council (SFMC)</b>	Appointed under Section 14 of the <i>Fire Service Act 1979</i> with the responsibility of developing a State vegetation fire management policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning. And, to provide advice to both the Minister and the State Fire Commission on matters relating to the prevention or mitigation of vegetation fires.
<b>Tasmania Fire Service (TFS)</b>	The operational arm of the State Fire Commission, established by the <i>Fire Service Act 1979</i> .
<b>Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG)</b>	Guidelines produced by the State Emergency Management Committee to support Tasmanian emergency management committees and hazard management authorities to prepare emergency risk assessments in line with the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG).
<b>Tasmanian State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment (TSNDRA) 2016</b>	An assessment of the state level risks associated with bushfires, storms, severe weather events, earthquakes, landslips, coastal inundation, heatwaves, and human influenza pandemic, in Tasmania.
<b>Values at risk</b>	The natural resources or improvements that may be jeopardised if a fire occurs.
<b>Vegetation fire</b>	Covers all fire in vegetation, both planned and unplanned. Unplanned vegetation fire is more specifically known as bushfire.
<b>Vegetation fire management activity</b>	All activities that relate to the control, use and management of vegetation. Includes for agriculture/silvicultural purposes, cultural practice, weed management, bushfire mitigation, ecological management and bushfire suppression. It includes legislation, policy, procedure, planning and operational activities.



## 8. Guide to Implementation

The Policy states the Principles and Strategies that will be used for vegetation fire management in Tasmania. The Principles and Strategies should be used to guide planning, decision-making and implementation of vegetation fire management activities.

The organisation conducting a vegetation fire management activity is responsible for ensuring that the Principles and Strategies are applied and for determining how to apply the Principles and Strategies in the context of the activity (*Policy R-1*).

This Appendix provides guidance about how the Policy might be applied to different contexts.

The diagrams and other tools included in this section are intended only as a guide.

### 8.1 Relationship between risk management frameworks and this Policy

Broadly speaking, the Policy may apply in two different situations (*Figure 2*). *Figure 2*

- A risk assessment process identifies a bushfire risk and proposes an activity to treat the risk; or
- An activity is proposed for some other reason, such as a legislative requirement.

*Figure 2 Relationship between risk and activity*



In both situations, the Policy requires a risk-based approach to the activity (*Policy P-3, S-3 and S-9*).

A variety of tools exist to assist organisations and individuals to conduct risk assessments and implement risk management frameworks.<sup>1</sup> This Guide to Implementation does not seek to replicate those tools. This Guide contains additional tools that relate specifically to the application of this Policy, including the aspects of the Policy that address matters other than risk management.

<sup>1</sup> Resources include: Tasmanian eGovernment website –«[www.egovernment.tas.gov.au](http://www.egovernment.tas.gov.au)» > Project Management > Supporting Resources > Templates > *Risk Management Plan Template and Guide v.1.1*; Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG) and Toolbox «[www.ses.tas.gov.au/h/em/risk-mgmt/terag-toolbox](http://www.ses.tas.gov.au/h/em/risk-mgmt/terag-toolbox)»; and National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines «<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/handbook-10-national-emergency-risk-assessment-guidelines/>».

## 8.2 Identifying Context and Purpose

In determining how to apply the Principles and Strategies, it may be helpful to clearly identify the context and purpose. Relevant contexts to consider may include:

- **Risk management framework** – if the activity is proposed as the outcome of a risk assessment process, what risk(s) does the activity address? In the context of your organisation’s risk management framework, how severe are the risks?
- **Legislative framework** (see Appendix B) – is the activity being conducted pursuant to a statutory power or a legislative requirement? What are the powers, functions, requirements and constraints imposed by that framework? Is any other legislation relevant?
- **Geographical** – in what region and on what scale does your organisation operate? Are other regions and/or scales also relevant to the identified risk or the proposed activity?

## 8.3 Identifying “The Activity”

Once the risk has been identified, the first step in planning for and conducting any vegetation fire management activity is to clearly identify the activity (*Figure 3*), ideally in just one sentence.

*Figure 3*    *Identifying the activity*



## 8.4 Stakeholder Identification and Engagement

A wide range of tools are available to assist in stakeholder identification and engagement either generally, or specifically in the context of vegetation fire management.<sup>2</sup> Some additional tools are included here.

A simple way to identify stakeholders may be to consider the process from the point of view of the risk that the activity is seeking to address, as illustrated in *Figure 4*.

*Figure 4 Stakeholder identification by reference to process*

Bushfire Risk	Vegetation Fire Management Activity	Desired Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Shared Risk</b> <i>Whose life, property or values are at risk from bushfire?</i></li><li>• <b>Shared Responsibility</b> <i>Who has statutory or other responsibilities in relation to risk?</i></li><li>• <b>Shared Consequences</b> <i>Who will bear the costs if the risk eventuates?</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Information</b> <i>Who has relevant or necessary knowledge, information or expertise?</i></li><li>• <b>Cooperation</b> <i>Whose assistance, funds, resources or cooperation are needed?</i></li><li>• <b>Permission or Authority</b> <i>Whose permission, authorisation or agreement is needed?</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Interests Affected</b> <i>Which people and whose property or values will or may be affected?</i></li><li>• <b>Influence or Control</b> <i>Who has control or influence over whether the desired outcome is achieved?</i></li></ul>

<sup>2</sup> Resources include: Collaboration – A Tasmanian Government Approach – «[www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/policy/collaboration/7](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/policy/collaboration/7)»; *Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines* (TERAG) p. 31-32 «<http://www.ses.tas.gov.au/h/em/risk-mgmt/terag-toolbox>»; and *National Strategy for Disaster Resilience: Community Engagement Framework* – «<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/handbook-6-community-engagement-framework/>».

Another approach to planning stakeholder identification and engagement is illustrated in

Figure 5 Stakeholder engagement

Why?	<b>Why is the activity proposed?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify the risk that is being addressed (if proposed activity is the outcome of a risk assessment process)</li><li>Identify any legislative or other obligation that underpins the activity (if proposed activity is a required action)</li></ul>	
What?	<b>What is the activity? What does it seek to achieve?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Describe the activity in one sentence.</li><li>State the desired outcome in one sentence.</li></ul>	
Where?	<b>What area, landscape or scale is the activity focused on?</b>	People or organisations with responsibilities for these areas, landscapes or scales are <b>Stakeholders</b>
	<b>What other areas, landscapes or scales are relevant?</b>	
Who?	<b>Whose cooperation or assistance is needed to achieve the desired outcome?</b>	These people, organisations or groups are <b>Stakeholders</b>
	<b>Whose interests or values will or may be affected by the activity?</b>	
When?	<b>What are the timeframes for planning and conducting the activity?</b>	
How?	<b>How will the Stakeholders be engaged and involved in planning, decision-making and carrying out the activity?</b>	

## 8.5 Identifying the Most Relevant Principles and Strategies for the Activity

The organisation conducting a vegetation fire management activity is responsible for ensuring that the Principles and Strategies are applied appropriately to the context of the activity (Policy R-1). *Figure 6* provides a set of questions that may assist organisations to identify the Principles and Strategies that are most relevant.

*Figure 6 Principles and Strategies for the Activity*

Principle/Strategy	Questions to Consider
<b>PRINCIPLES</b> <i>All stakeholders acknowledge and accept that:</i>	
P-1 <i>Bushfire occurs and will continue to occur in the Tasmanian landscape.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Relevant to defining “acceptable” and “unacceptable” risk)</li> </ul>
P-2 <i>Bushfire can be a threat, not only to people and response agencies, but also to the landscape, Aboriginal and other Tasmanian cultural heritage and the Tasmanian economy.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What consequences is the activity seeking to prevent, mitigate or address?</li> <li>• Will the activity create any additional risks?</li> </ul>
P-3 <i>A risk management approach will be applied to vegetation fire management in Tasmania.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What risk or risks does the activity aim to address?</li> <li>• Will the activity create any additional risks?</li> </ul>
P-4 <i>The paramount priority is to protect human life.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whose lives will be at risk if there is a bushfire?</li> <li>• Whose lives (if any) will be placed at risk by the activity?</li> </ul>
P-5 <i>Other priorities reflect identified community values including the protection of assets, infrastructure, cultural, historical, ecological and environmental values. The order of priority for these other values will be determined in each case using a risk-based approach.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What other values are or may be affected by the activity?</li> <li>• Are the values aligned or competing?</li> <li>• Whose values are they?</li> <li>• What is the degree of risk to each of these values as a consequence of a bushfire, or as a consequence of the proposed activity?</li> </ul>

## Principle/Strategy

*P-6 Bushfire does not recognise tenure. Consequently, all land owners, occupiers and managers have a responsibility to work cooperatively to manage risk.*

*P-7 Fire can be used as an effective tool for vegetation fire management, risk mitigation, ecological management, silvicultural burning and as part of Aboriginal cultural practices.*

## Questions to Consider

- Identify land owners, occupiers and managers whose land or jurisdiction is or may be affected by the activity.

- What strategies or risk treatment options are proposed?

## STRATEGIES

### ***All stakeholders agree that:***

*S-1 Bushfire risk will be assessed and, where appropriate, managed by actions to reduce the risk of bushfire occurring and/or to reduce the intensity and impact of bushfires when they do occur.*

- What is the measured risk?
- What are the risk treatment options?
- What level of risk treatment should apply?

*S-2 In a bushfire emergency, all stakeholders will unite in their efforts to protect human life and to protect other values.*

- Does the activity relate to vegetation fire “planning” or “bushfire response”?
- How will unity of effort be achieved? (Also addressed by building effective relationships with stakeholders.)

### ***Vegetation fire management activities will:***

*S-3 Aim to achieve outcomes identified by a science-based, risk management approach.*

- What is the desired outcome of the activity?
- How does this outcome reflect priorities identified by scientific evidence and the organisation’s risk management framework?

*S-4 Apply across tenures and jurisdictions and will take a landscape approach.*

- What tenures and/or jurisdictions are relevant to the activity?
- At what scale(s) will or might the activity occur?
- How will the activity be applied across the relevant tenure(s), jurisdiction(s) and landscape scale(s)?

## Principle/Strategy

## Questions to Consider

### **Organisations conducting vegetation fire management activities will:**

S-5 *Share responsibility by involving stakeholders in planning and decision-making processes.*

- Who else has responsibility for some or all aspects of the activity?
- How will the organisation involve those stakeholders in planning and decision-making?

S-6 *Ensure that communities play an active role in fuel management and are engaged, educated, and supported to contribute to effective bushfire management activities.*

- Which communities are or may be affected by the activity?
- How will the organisation engage, educate and support community members to contribute to the activity?

S-7 *Actively engage with and consider the values of affected stakeholders.*

- Who else may be affected by the activity?
- How will the organisation engage with those stakeholders?

### **Decisions about vegetation fire management will:**

S-8 *Be process-based and undertaken in good faith.*

- What are the steps (process) that need to be undertaken before a decision is made?
- How will the organisation carry out the process?
- How can the organisation demonstrate that it is undertaking the process in good faith?

S-9 *Apply a risk-based approach in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management Principles and Guidelines, National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) and Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG).*

- What hazards, risk treatment options and consequences does the activity seek to address?
- What level of risk is “acceptable”?
- How can available resources be used to most effectively reduce risk?

S-10 *Be informed by evidence, research and contemporary practices to promote adaptability and continuous improvement.*

- What evidence, research or information about contemporary practices is already known to the organisation?
- What other information is needed? Where can it be obtained?

## Principle/Strategy

## Questions to Consider

*S-11 Seek to preserve and/or strike a balance between identified community values.*

- What priorities / values are or may be affected by the activity?
- Are the priorities / values aligned or are they in tension?
- How will tension between competing priorities / values be resolved?

***All stakeholders in vegetation fire management activities will:***

*S-12 Collaborate and cooperate, including by appropriate sharing of information and resources.*

- Who may be able to provide relevant information?
- Who may be able to provide necessary or useful resources?
- How will the cooperation of these stakeholders be obtained?

*S-13 Act in good faith.*

- How can the process be designed to promote good faith participation?

## RESPONSIBILITIES

*R-1 The organisation conducting a vegetation fire management activity is responsible for ensuring that the Principles and Strategies are applied and for determining how to apply the Principles and Strategies in the context of the activity.*

- As per the above questions.
- The organisation may wish to document how it has addressed each of the Principles and Strategies.



## 8.6 Translating the Principles and Strategies into Actions and Outcomes

The table in *Figure 7* illustrates how each Principle or Strategy may be translated into Actions to be taken and Outcomes that might be achieved.

*Figure 7 Principles and Strategies, Actions and Outcomes*

Principle/Strategy	Action	Outcome
<b>PRINCIPLES</b>		
<b><i>All stakeholders acknowledge and accept that:</i></b>		
<i>P-1 Bushfire occurs and will continue to occur in the Tasmanian landscape.</i>	Vegetation fire management activities are aimed at prevention, preparation, response and/or recovery from bushfire.	Adverse effects of bushfire are minimised.
<i>P-2 Bushfire can be a threat, not only to people and response agencies, but also to the landscape, Aboriginal and other Tasmanian cultural heritage and the Tasmanian economy.</i>	Vegetation fire management activities seek to address the diverse threats posed by bushfire.	Adverse effects of bushfire are minimised.
<i>P-3 A risk management approach will be applied to vegetation fire management in Tasmania.</i>	The risks posed by bushfire are identified and the degree of each risk (that is, the likelihood of occurrence and severity of outcomes) is assessed. Risks are prioritised according to the degree of risk. Risk treatment options are identified and implemented in order of priority.	Adverse effects of bushfire are minimised.
<i>P-4 The paramount priority is to protect human life.</i>	Vegetation fire management activities have the preservation of human life as their primary goal.	Loss of human life due to bushfire is avoided.

Principle/Strategy	Action	Outcome
P-5 <i>Other priorities reflect identified community values including the protection of assets, infrastructure, cultural, historical, ecological and environmental values. The order of priority for these other values will be determined in each case using a risk-based approach.</i>	Stakeholders are consulted to identify, and assess the degree of risk posed to, other values by a bushfire and/or by the activity.  The order of priority for preserving these other values is determined according to the assessed risks.	Other values are preserved, so far as possible, according to the determined priorities.
P-6 <i>Bushfire does not recognise tenure. Consequently, all land owners, occupiers and managers have a responsibility to work cooperatively to manage risk.</i>	Land owners, occupiers and managers are included in the planning and conducting of vegetation fire management activities.	Land owners, occupiers and managers cooperate to manage fire risk in the area.
P-7 <i>Fire can be used as an effective tool for vegetation fire management, risk mitigation, ecological management, silvicultural burning and as part of Aboriginal cultural practices.</i>	When planning vegetation fire management activities, the use of fire is considered as a possible tool, drawing on knowledge from Aboriginal cultural practices, fuel management techniques and ecological burns.	Vegetation fire management activities incorporate the appropriate use of fire as a tool to manage bushfire and fuel risks.

## STRATEGIES

### *All stakeholders agree that:*

S-1 <i>Bushfire risk will be assessed and, where appropriate, managed by actions to reduce the risk of bushfire occurring and/or to reduce the intensity and impact of bushfires when they do occur.</i>	A risk assessment framework is established in relation to bushfires which identifies, assesses and prioritises bushfire risks and risk treatment options.  The framework is used to guide decisions how to manage bushfire and bushfire risks.	The risks associated with bushfires are managed effectively in accordance with the risk assessment framework. The impact of bushfires is reduced.
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Principle/Strategy	Action	Outcome
S-2 <i>In a bushfire emergency, all stakeholders will unite in their efforts to protect human life and to protect other values.</i>	Vegetation fire management activities include planning for bushfire emergencies. Plans allocate roles and responsibilities and identify and prioritise relevant community values.	In a fire emergency, stakeholders unite in their efforts to preserve human life and to protect other values in accordance with the plan.
<b>Vegetation fire management activities will:</b>		
S-3 <i>Aim to achieve outcomes identified by a science-based, risk management approach.</i>	The risk assessment framework is based on scientific evidence about probable occurrence, severity and consequences of bushfires and effectiveness of risk treatment options. Vegetation fire management activities and their intended outcomes are identified by reference to the risk assessment framework.	Vegetation fire management activities have the greatest likelihood of effectively reducing the risk of bushfire occurring and the intensity and impact of bushfires when they do occur.
S-4 <i>Apply across tenures and jurisdictions and will take a landscape approach.</i>	Vegetation fire management activities are planned and conducted at a “landscape” scale. Relevant jurisdictions and land owners, occupiers and managers are involved in planning, decision-making and, where appropriate, conducting vegetation fire management activities.	Vegetation fire management activities are planned and conducted at a landscape scale across multiple tenures and jurisdictions.
<b>Organisations conducting vegetation fire management activities will:</b>		
S-5 <i>Share responsibility by involving stakeholders in planning and decision-making processes.</i>	Organisations intending to conduct vegetation fire management activities identify relevant stakeholders and involve them appropriately in planning and decision-making processes.	Planning and decision-making in relation to bushfires and fuel management reflect input from and the sharing of responsibility between all relevant stakeholders.
S-6 <i>Ensure that communities play an active role in fuel management and are engaged, educated, and supported to contribute to effective bushfire management activities.</i>	Organisations identify and implement ways to engage, educate and support local communities to contribute to vegetation fire management activities the organisation is conducting.	Local communities play an active role in fire and fuel management activities.

Principle/Strategy	Action	Outcome
S-7 <i>Actively engage with and consider the values of affected stakeholders.</i>	Organisations conducting vegetation fire management activities identify the people, groups and organisations whose values will or may be affected.  The organisation implements appropriate strategies to engage the affected stakeholders in the planning and decision-making process.	Stakeholder values are taken into account in planning and conducting vegetation fire management activities. Values are prioritised using a risk management approach, with the paramount priority being to protect human life (P3, P4 and P5).
<b>Decisions about vegetation fire management will:</b>		
S-8 <i>Be process-based and undertaken in good faith.</i>	Decisions about vegetation fire management are based on planned, logical processes.  The processes are designed and conducted in good faith.	Decisions and the decision-making process can be readily explained.  Stakeholders and the broader community have confidence in the decision-making process.
S-9 <i>Apply a risk-based approach in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management Principles and Guidelines, National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) and Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG).</i>	A risk assessment framework is established in relation to bushfires which identifies, assesses and prioritises bushfire risks and risk treatment options.  The framework is used to guide decisions about vegetation fire management.	Decisions are defensible and transparent.  Risks are managed effectively.
S-10 <i>Be informed by evidence, research and contemporary practices to promote adaptability and continuous improvement.</i>	Planning for vegetation fire management activities will include a review of relevant evidence, research and contemporary practices.  Outcome data will be collected and reviewed to identify what worked and what can be improved.	Decisions reflect up-to-date evidence, research and contemporary practices.  Vegetation fire management activities are continuously adapted and improved.

Principle/Strategy	Action	Outcome
S-11 <i>Seek to preserve and/or strike a balance between identified community values.</i>	<p>Planning for vegetation fire management activities will include identifying community values that will or may be affected.</p> <p>Decision-making processes will incorporate consultation with stakeholders about how and to what extent the values can be preserved in accordance with the assessed order of priority (see also P-5).</p>	As much as possible, vegetation fire management activities preserve, or have minimal adverse impact on, identified community values.
<b>All stakeholders in vegetation fire management activities will:</b>		
S-12 <i>Collaborate and cooperate, including by appropriate sharing of information and resources.</i>	<p>Planning for vegetation fire management activities will include identifying who holds relevant resources and information and inviting their cooperation.</p> <p>Participants in vegetation fire management activities willingly share resources and information whenever possible.</p>	Stakeholders share information and resources so that bushfire and fuel loads are effectively managed.
S-13 <i>Act in good faith.</i>	All parties involved in vegetation fire management activities conduct themselves openly, honestly and in the spirit of jointly seeking to reduce bushfire risks.	Strong working relationships develop and support the achievement of desired outcomes for bushfire management.
<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>		
R-1 <i>The organisation conducting a vegetation fire management activity is responsible for ensuring that the Principles and Strategies are applied and for determining how to apply the Principles and Strategies in the context of the activity.</i>	Organisations determine how to apply the Principles and Strategies to vegetation fire management activities they intend to conduct, then conduct the activity in that context.	The Principles and Strategies are incorporated and implemented in all vegetation fire management activities in Tasmania.

## 9. Other Relevant Legislation

The table in *Figure 8* lists other Tasmanian legislation that may be relevant to vegetation fire management activities. Organisations conducting vegetation fire management activities will need to consider whether these Acts or any other laws apply to the activity and take steps to ensure that they comply with applicable laws.

*Figure 8 Relevant Tasmanian Legislation*

### Act

<i>Aboriginal Relics Act 1975</i>	The Act to make provision for the protection and management of aboriginal relics.
<i>Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008</i>	An Act for certain measures to help the State address the challenges of climate change and contribute to the broader national and international response to those challenges and for related purposes.
<i>Crown Lands Act 1976</i>	An Act to make fresh provisions with respect to the management, sale, and disposal of the lands of the Crown.
<i>Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995</i>	An Act to promote efficiency and competition in the electricity supply industry, to provide for a safe and efficient system of electricity generation, transmission, distribution and supply, to provide for the safety of electrical installations, equipment and appliances, to enforce proper standards in the performance of electrical work, to protect the interests of consumers of electricity and for related purposes.  This Act enables the Tasmanian Electricity Code.
<i>Emergency Management Act 2006</i>	The Act of precedence for all emergency risk mitigation. The planning framework for the Fire Protection Plans sits under the Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan, authorised under this Act. The fire protection plans, developed through the FMACs, are a key document to prioritise bushfire risk treatment programs and the identification of strategic management areas.
<i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>	An Act to provide for the management of the environment and the control of pollution in the State. It enables the development of environmental protection policies to further the objectives of the Act.

## Act

<i>Fire Service Act 1979</i>	<p>This Act outlines the law relating to preventing and extinguishing fires and the protection of life and property from fire and to make provision with respect to incidental matters. Section 14 to 21 specifically relate to State Fire Management Council, Fire Management Area Committees and their functions.</p> <p>Section 15 (1) (a) relates to the development of the State vegetation fire management policy, to be used as a basis for all fire management planning.</p>
<i>Forest Management Act 2013</i>	An Act to provide for the management of permanent timber production zone land to repeal the <i>Forestry Act 1920</i> and for related purposes.
<i>Forest Practices Act 1985</i>	An Act to ensure that all forest practices are conducted in accordance with the Forest Practices Code and to provide for the issue of that Code. The Forest Practices Code provides operational standards applicable to vegetation fire management.
<i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i>	An Act to make provision for land use planning and approvals.
<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	An Act to provide for local government and establish councils to plan for, develop and manage municipal areas in the interests of their communities.
<i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>	An Act to make provision with respect to the conservation and protection of the fauna, flora and geological diversity of the State, to provide for the declaration of national parks and other reserved land and for related purposes.
<i>National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002</i>	An Act to provide for the management of national parks and other reserved land.
<i>State Policies and Projects Act 1993</i>	<p>An Act to provide for Tasmanian Sustainable Development Policies, to provide for the integrated assessment of projects of State significance, to provide for State of the Environment Reporting and for related purposes. Policies prepared under this act bind local government and the Crown and currently include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural land 2009</li> <li>• State Coastal Policy 1996</li> <li>• State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997.</li> </ul>
<i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i>	The Act to provide for the protection and management of threatened native flora and fauna to enable and promote the conservation of native flora and fauna.
<i>Water Management Act 1999</i>	The Act to provide for the management of water resources.

## Act

<i>Wellington Park Act 1993</i>	An Act to establish Wellington Park, to provide for its protection, use and management and for the assessment of major projects affecting it and to make provision for incidental and consequential matters.
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Figure 9 Relevant Commonwealth Legislation

## Act

<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	An Act relating to the protection of the environment and the conservation of biodiversity, and for related purposes.
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## 10. References

- [Fire Service Act 1979](#)
- [2016 Tasmanian State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment](#)
- [Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan, Issue 8](#)
- [State Fire Protection Plan, May 2013](#)
- [National Bushfire Management Policy Statement for Forests and Rangelands, Prepared by The Forest Fire Management Group for The Council of Australian Governments, 2014](#)
- [Bushfire in Tasmania; A new approach to reducing Statewide relative risk, July 2014](#)
- [Australia's Native Vegetation Framework, December 2012](#)
- Tasmanian Legislation Website: [www.legislation.tas.gov.au](http://www.legislation.tas.gov.au)
- Tasmanian Government Communications Policy: [www.communications.tas.gov.au/channels/communication\\_strategy](http://www.communications.tas.gov.au/channels/communication_strategy)



Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management  
Policy 2017 Supporting Document  
**Policy Development Process**

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Contents

1. Policy Development ..... 4

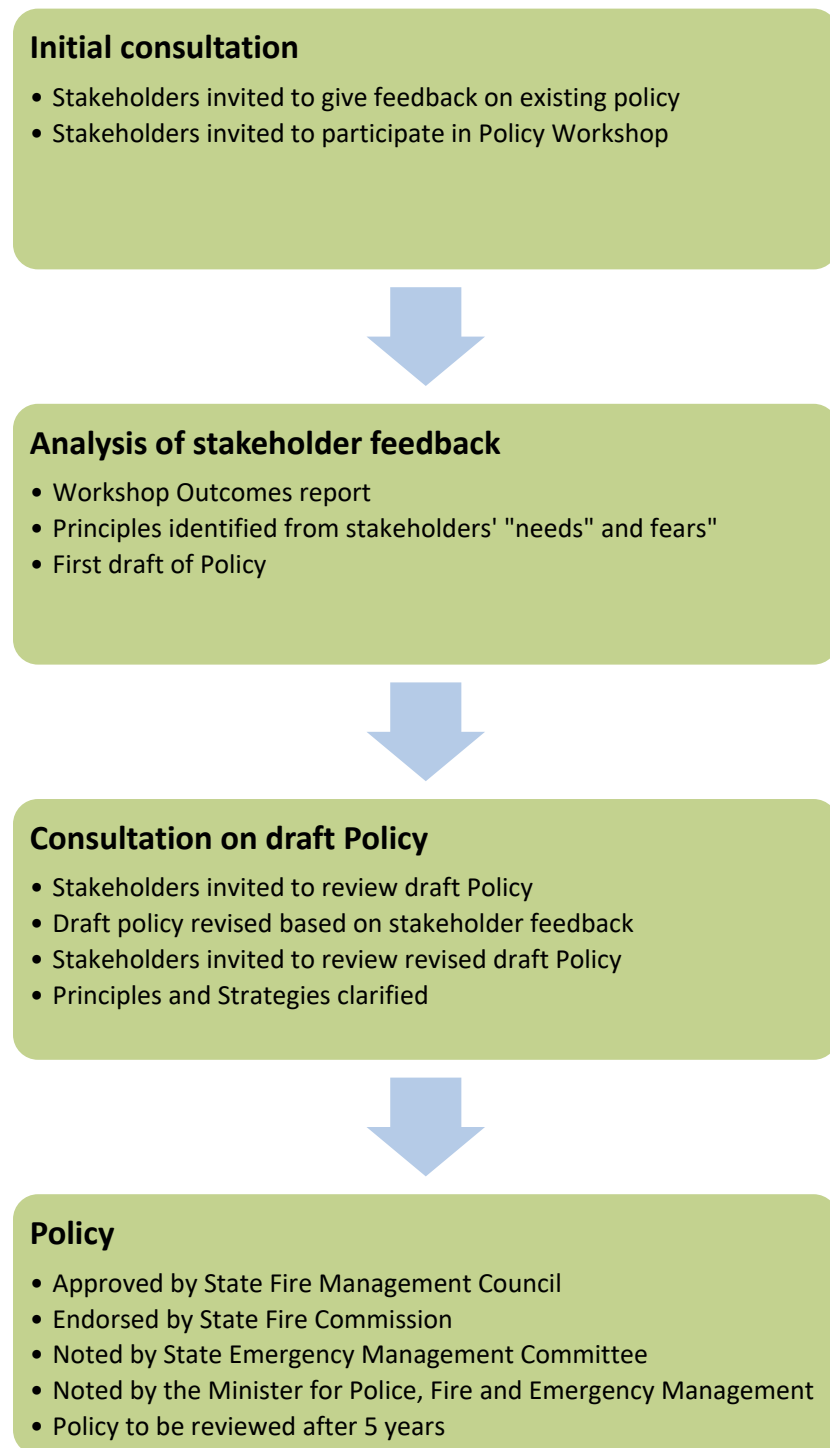
2. Stakeholder Participation..... 6

3. From consultation to Policy – how workshop outputs shaped the Principles and Strategies ..... 7

## 1. Policy Development

The Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy was developed through a process, involving consultation with and participation by a wide range of stakeholders, illustrated in Figure 1 below.

*Figure 1 Consultation and Policy development process*



The consultation strategy incorporated Whole Systems Theory where ‘the whole system’ participated in Workshops that shaped the Principles and Strategies that are now set out in the Policy. This method recognises and values the wide range of stakeholders that are involved in, have experience in, and have responsibility for vegetation fire management planning, activities and risk management in Tasmania.

The consultation process closely informed the development of the Principles and Strategies set out in the Policy. The principles identified by stakeholders in the workshop have been mapped to the Policy Principles and Strategies in Figure 3 below.

The consultation process also provided stakeholders with the opportunity to share their needs and fears with other stakeholders. We have also mapped these needs to the Policy Principles and Strategies in Figure 4 below.

Workshop participants were invited to provide feedback on the first draft of the Policy. Stakeholders were generally supportive of the proposed Principles (now Principles and Strategies) but asked how the Policy will work in practice. This uncertainty has been addressed by the inclusion of the Guide to Implementation (Appendix A). Stakeholders were then invited to provide an additional round of feedback on the Policy to ensure needs were addressed, prior to the final policy being approved.

## 2. Stakeholder Participation

An extensive stakeholder mapping process was conducted to ensure all relevant stakeholders were identified. Over 190 stakeholders were invited to participate in the policy development process at some point by providing feedback on the existing (2012) Policy and/or attended the Workshop and/or provided feedback on subsequent drafts.

The State Fire Management Council (SFMC) would like to acknowledge the personnel from the following organisations who participated.

*Figure 2 Participating stakeholders*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Aboriginal Heritage Council</i></li><li>• <i>Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania</i></li><li>• <i>Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania</i></li><li>• <i>Central Coast Council</i></li><li>• <i>Central North Fire Management Area Committee</i></li><li>• <i>Centre for Environment UTAS</i></li><li>• <i>Circular Head Council</i></li><li>• <i>City of Hobart</i></li><li>• <i>City of Launceston</i></li><li>• <i>Department of Health and Human Services</i></li><li>• <i>Department of Premier and Cabinet</i></li><li>• <i>Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment</i></li><li>• <i>East Coast Fire Management Area Committee</i></li><li>• <i>Forestry Tasmania (now Sustainable Timber Tasmania)</i></li><li>• <i>Forest Industries Association of Tasmania</i></li><li>• <i>Forest Practices Authority</i></li><li>• <i>Hobart Fire Management Area Committee</i></li><li>• <i>Hydro Tasmania</i></li><li>• <i>Kingborough Council</i></li><li>• <i>Local Government Association of Tasmania</i></li><li>• <i>Landcare</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Midlands Fire Management Area Committee</i></li><li>• <i>NRM South</i></li><li>• <i>Parks and Wildlife Service</i></li><li>• <i>Private Forests Tasmania</i></li><li>• <i>Sorell Council</i></li><li>• <i>Southern Fire Management Area Committee</i></li><li>• <i>State Emergency Service</i></li><li>• <i>State Fire Management Council</i></li><li>• <i>State Growth</i></li><li>• <i>Tasmania Fire Service</i></li><li>• <i>Tasmanian Climate Change Office</i></li><li>• <i>Tasmanian Conservation Trust</i></li><li>• <i>Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association</i></li><li>• <i>Tasmanian Land Conservancy</i></li><li>• <i>TasNetworks</i></li><li>• <i>TasWater</i></li><li>• <i>The Wilderness Society</i></li><li>• <i>University of Tasmania</i></li><li>• <i>Wellington Park Trust</i></li><li>• <i>West Coast Fire Management Area Committee</i></li></ul>
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### 3. From consultation to Policy – how workshop outputs shaped the Principles and Strategies

The following table (Figure 3) lists the themes identified by Workshop participants and shows how they are reflected in the Policy Principles and Strategies.

*Figure 3 How Workshop outputs shaped the Policy Principles and Strategies*

Theme	Workshop Outputs	Link to Policy
Acceptance of fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire is part of Tasmania that demands management</li> <li>Realism: Fire is respected and there is a limit to what we can achieve</li> </ul>	Principles 1, 2, 3 Strategy 1
Adaptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptability/Adaptive/Be adaptive and flexible</li> <li>Fire management requires long-term, holistic and landscape approaches that are diverse, adaptive and evidence-based</li> <li>To climate, seasonality, resources, priorities</li> </ul>	Strategies 3,4, 9, 10
Bigger picture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complemented by emergency management framework</li> </ul>	Addressed by the Policy being part of a broad legislative and systems framework.
Consistency / coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acceptance that a consistent plan for events is pre-determined</li> <li>Across all tiers and parties</li> <li>Coordinated response to incidents</li> <li>Remain consistent and actively engage with national principles</li> <li>Systems, practices, protocols, technology</li> </ul>	Principle 6 Strategies 2, 5, 12 Addressed by the Policy being part of a broad legislative and systems framework.
Cross-tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applied across jurisdictions and tenures</li> <li>Cross-tenure, landscape-scale management</li> <li>Fire management requires long-term, holistic and landscape approaches that are diverse, adaptive and evidence-based</li> </ul>	Principle 6 Strategy 4
Evidence-based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage innovation, evaluation and collaboration</li> <li>Evidence-based</li> <li>Fire management requires long-term, holistic and landscape approaches that are diverse, adaptive and evidence-based</li> <li>Measurable (SMART)</li> <li>Recognise climate change increases the complexities around fire response and mitigation</li> <li>Strive to be the leaders in fire management</li> </ul>	Strategies 3, 9, 10
Prioritise life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No loss of life – direct, indirect</li> </ul>	Principle 4 Strategy 2
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate resourcing</li> </ul>	This is a strategy and planning issue (Strategies 1, 9 may be relevant)



Theme	Workshop Outputs	Link to Policy
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Do nothing” is not an option</li> <li>• Collaboration/shared responsibility by local, state, federal, international governments and community /Shared responsibility and empowerment/ Inclusive/collaborative</li> <li>• Responsibility for fire must be shared across governments, land owners, industry, institutions, interest groups and individuals // Recognises shared and individual responsibilities</li> <li>• Shared understanding and shared objectives</li> </ul>	Principles 3, 6 Strategies 2, 4, 5, 12
Risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire management involves risks, costs and trade-offs</li> <li>• Risk assessment // Risk management approach //</li> <li>• Risk based approach</li> <li>• Strategic approach based on science and evidence</li> </ul>	Principle 3 Strategies 1, 3, 9
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competing values // Fire management involves risks, costs and trade-offs</li> <li>• Fire management should maximise benefits and reduce the harm from fire to society and the environment</li> <li>• Holistically embrace needs of all stakeholders</li> <li>• Life, ecological, cultural, community, research</li> <li>• Mechanism to facilitate conflict between fire and other policies</li> <li>• Minimise adverse impacts on values, environment, communities</li> <li>• Values driven // Respect of stakeholder values (inclusive)</li> </ul>	Principles 4, 5 Strategies 7, 11

The following table (Figure 4) illustrates how the Policy also aims to broadly address the “needs” and “fears” identified by stakeholders at the Workshop.

*Figure 4 Addressing stakeholders’ needs and fears.*

Needs	Fears	Addressed in Policy
Safety of personnel		Principle 4
	High intensity fire	Principles 1, 2 Strategy 1
Access and equipment maintained	Loss of working fire trails and equipment	Principle 6 Strategies 4, 6
Consistency and leadership	Decisions are reactive	Principle 3 Strategies 3, 4, 9, 10
Education Shared understanding	Lack of acceptance / understanding of fire – unrealistic expectations	Principle 1 Strategies 5, 6
Effective prevention Adequate, appropriate fuel reduction	Prevention efforts ineffective	Strategies 3, 9, 10
Access to fire as a management tool Landowners, occupiers and managers supported to conduct appropriate burns	Inappropriate burn regime Lack of community understanding of the need for burns	Principles 6, 7 Strategy 6
Framework to protect against litigation	Litigation Inappropriate regulatory restrictions	Strategies 8, 9
“Grasping the opportunity to craft sustainable co-existence with fire” Innovation and adaptability to changes in knowledge, technology and climate	Missing the opportunity Lack of adaptation to climate change	Strategies 3, 10
Inclusion / involvement Opportunities to participate	Exclusion Partnerships not developed	Principle 6 Strategies 5, 6, 7, 11, 12
Research Knowledge utilised Knowledge based maintained Robust data systems	Decisions based on poor science Loss of expertise / skilled personnel	Strategies 3, 10, 12
Resources used effectively	Resources used where not needed most	Principle 3 Strategies 1, 9
Shared responsibility Communication within and between agencies	Shifting of responsibility	Principle 6 Strategies 2, 4, 5, 7, 12
Values protected Assets protected	Loss or damage to values Values conflict Loss or damage to critical heritage, assets or infrastructure	Principles 4, 5 Strategies 2, 7, 11

Many stakeholders also identified “resources” as a need. Resourcing is a strategy and planning consideration that is outside the scope of this Policy. However, the Policy emphasises the importance of using a risk management framework to guide vegetation fire management activities. Risk management frameworks may also assist in identifying how resources can be most effectively used.